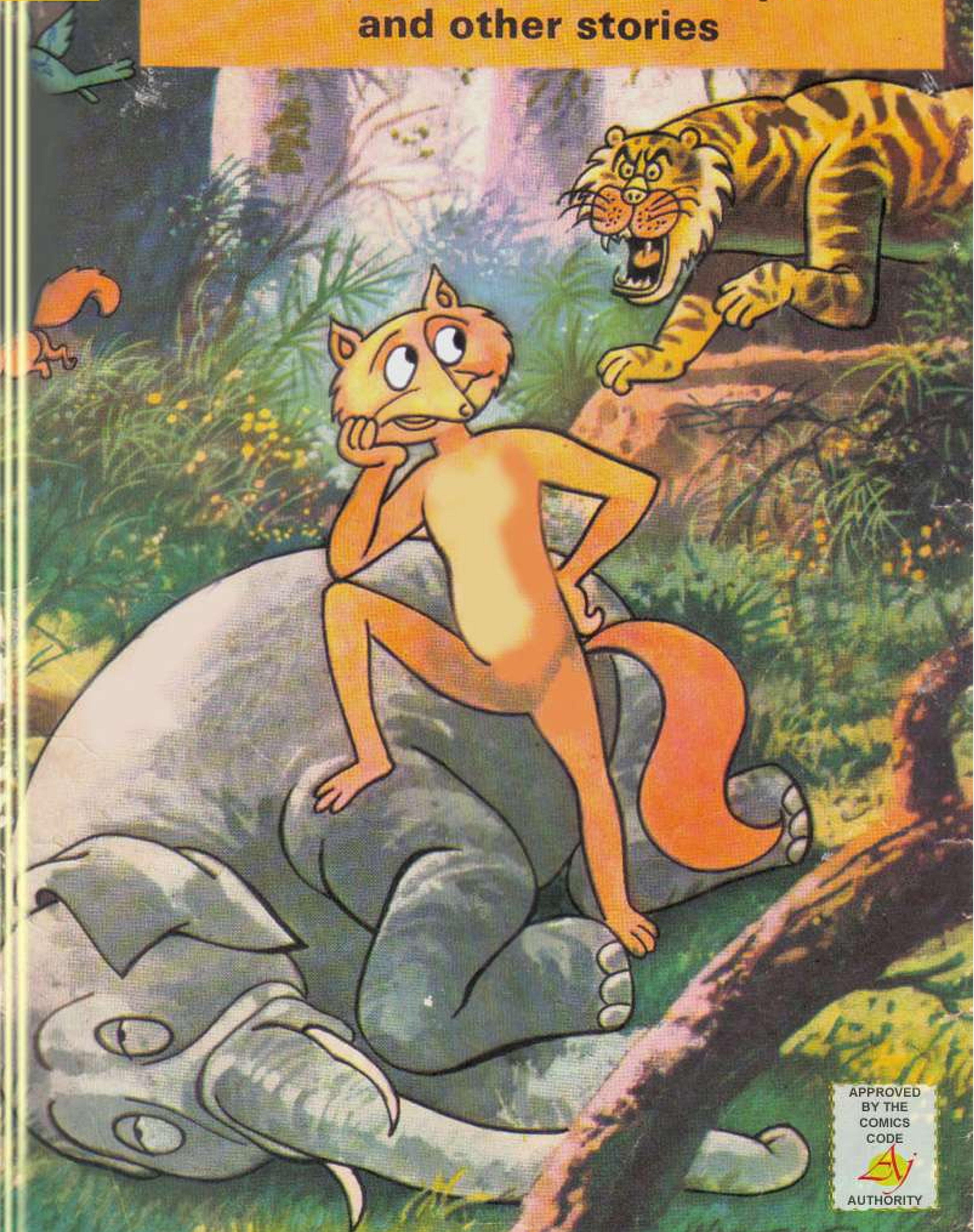
AMAR CHITRA KATHA

No.163

PANCHATANTRA

How the jackal ate the elephant and other stories



AMAR CHITRA KATHA

The original Sanskrit text of the Panchatantra was probably written about 200 B.C. by the great scholar, Vishnu Sharma. But some of the tales must have been in circulation much earlier. In course of time, travellers took these tales with them to Persia and Arabia and finally, through Greece, they reached Europe. So far the Panchatantra has been translated into 50 or more languages of the world.

How the tales of the Panchatantra came to be told is itself an interesting story. A king in ancient India could not find a teacher who could make his three sons interested in the pursuit of knowledge. At last he found in Vishnu Sharma the teacher he was looking for — the teacher who could make the pursuit of knowledge palatable to his sons.

The study of the theories of philosophy, psychology and statecraft became engrossing when Vishnu Sharma drove the moral home through the mouths of talking animals and their escapades.

One unique feature of the tales is that most of the characters are animals; another, the tales form a chain of stories; a third, each of the tales has a distinct moral; and yet another, the tales have different levels of appeal.

The morals which the Panchatantra seeks to teach continue to be relevant to this day and the stories themselves haven't lost their novelty even two thousand years after they were first told.

OUR NEXT TITLE:

TALES OF SHIVA

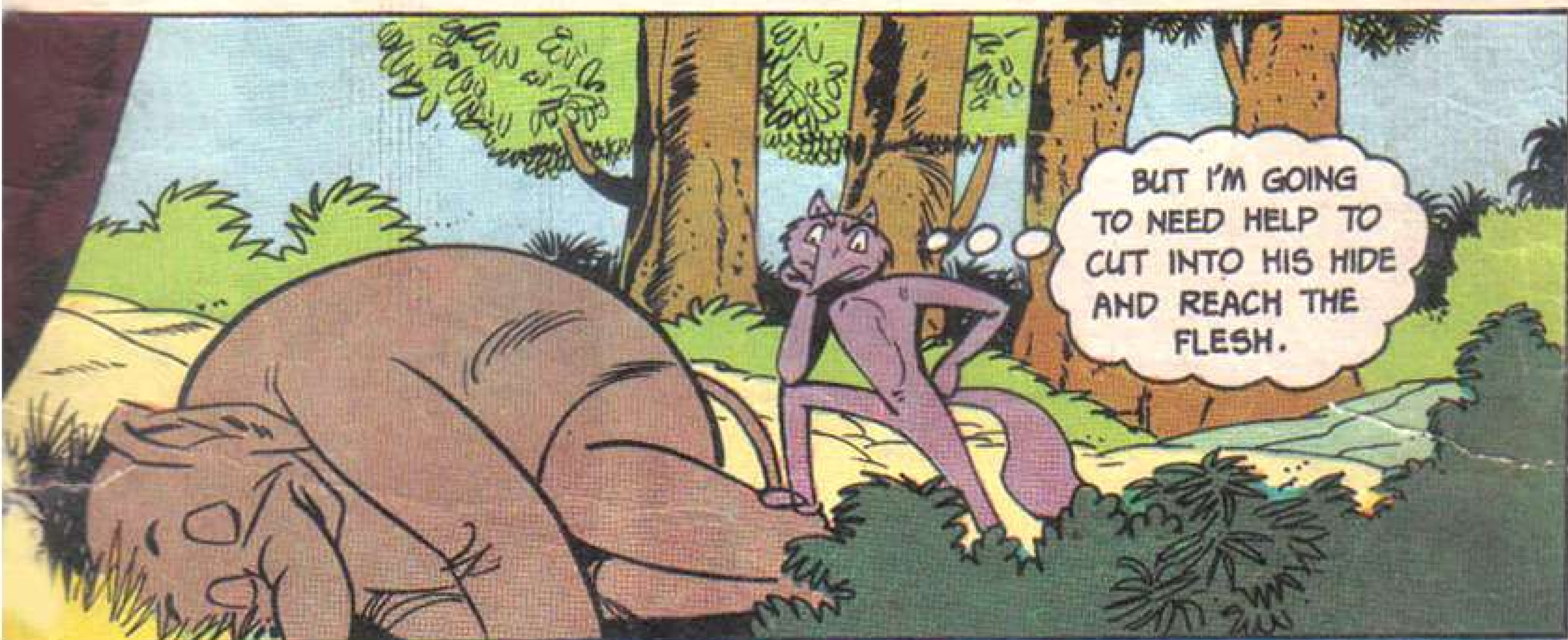
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HOW THE JACKAL ATE THE ELEPHANT

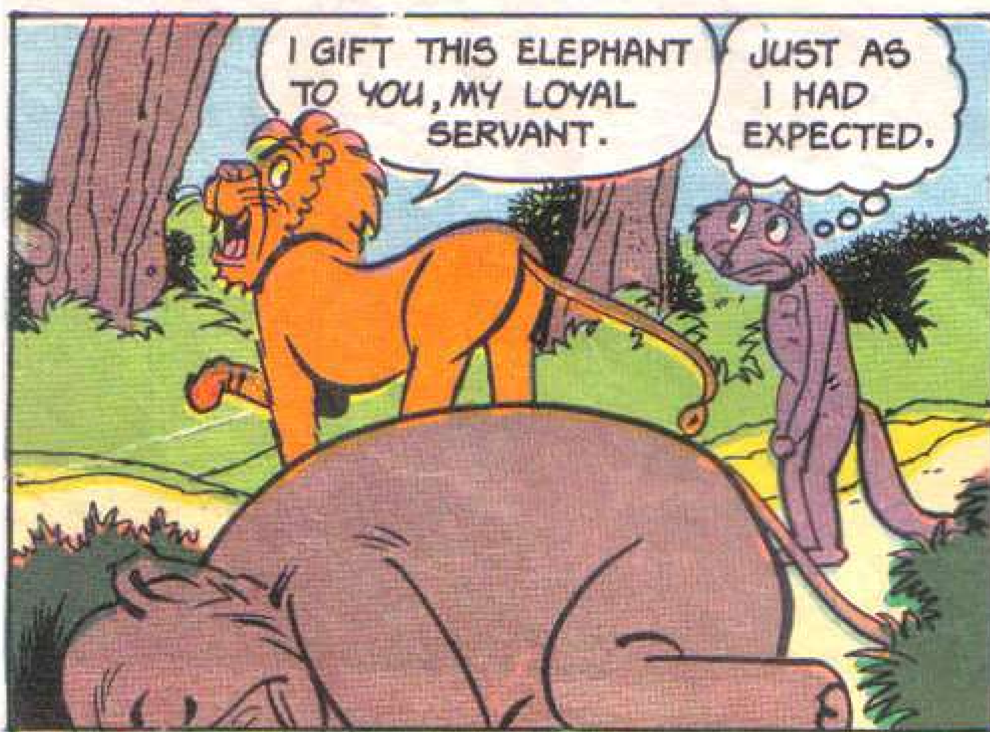
MAHACHATURAKA, THE JACKAL WAS VERY HAPPY. HE HAD FOUND A DEAD ELEPHANT. ENOUGH FOOD FOR WEEKS!

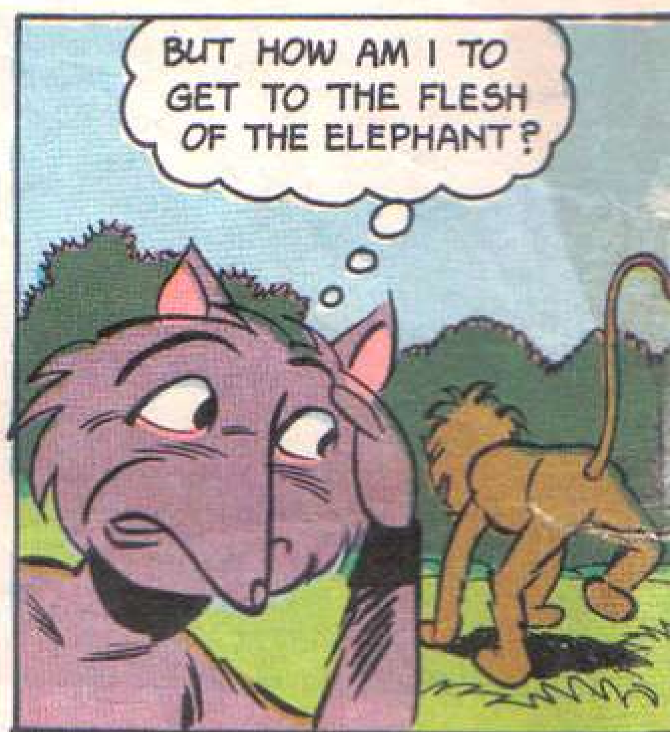





MY LORD, YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT HAS BEEN GUARDING THIS DEAD ELEPHANT FOR YOU.


I EAT ONLY WHAT I HAVE KILLED.
DON'T I KNOW THAT!


I GIFT THIS ELEPHANT TO YOU, MY LOYAL SERVANT.
JUST AS I HAD EXPECTED.

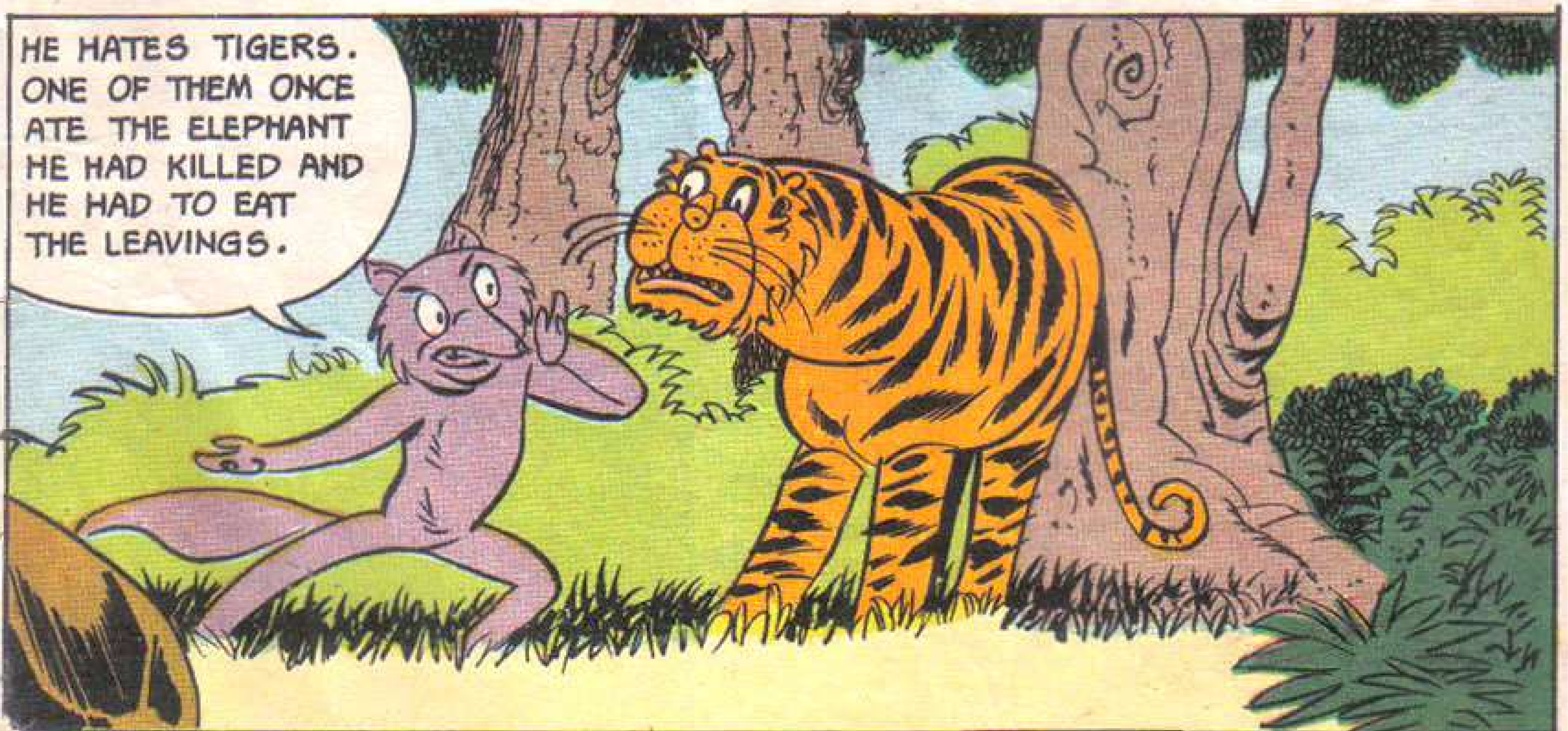

BUT HOW AM I TO GET TO THE FLESH OF THE ELEPHANT?


AS HE WONDERED WHAT TO DO, A TIGER CAME BY.
OH! OH! I SENT OFF ONE FELLOW BY PRE-TENDING TO BE HUMBLE. HOW SHALL I SEND THIS ONE PACKING?


HE'S NOT ONE TO BE FLATTERED. I'LL HAVE TO THINK FAST.


CUNNING! THAT'S IT! I'LL RESORT TO CUNNING!

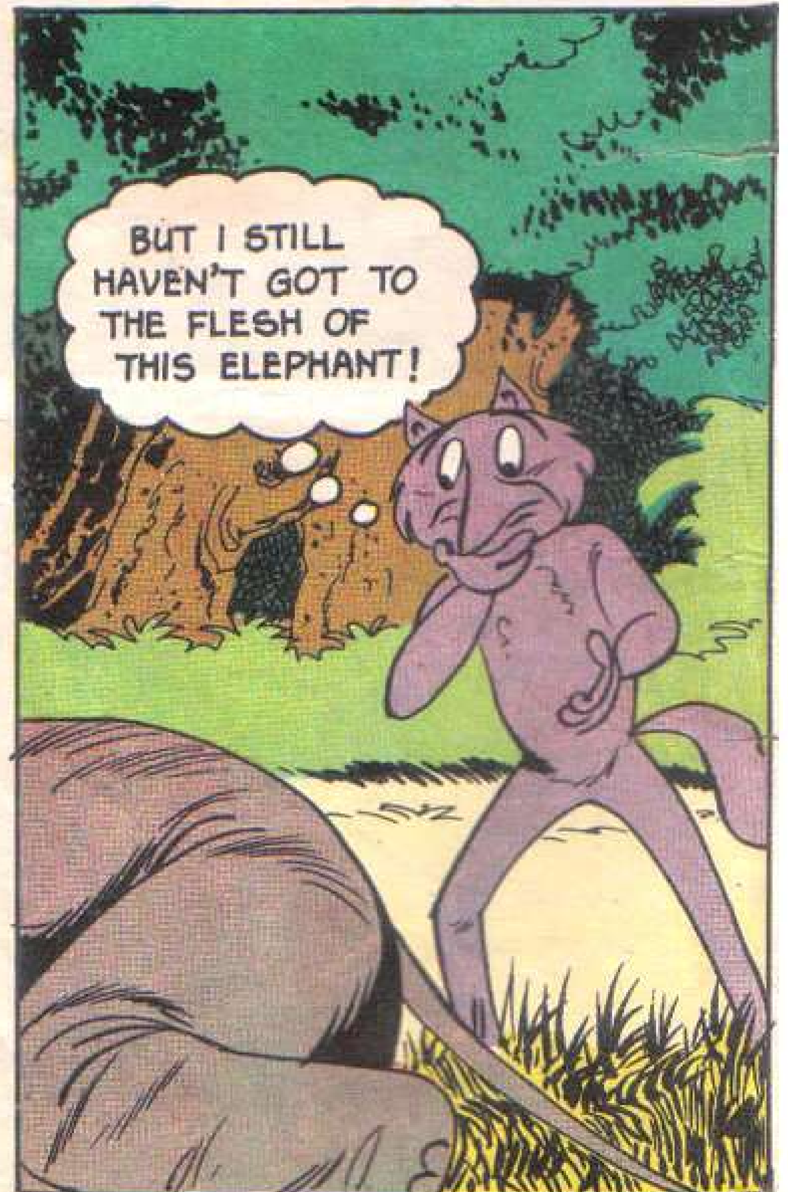

UNCLE! IT'S DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO BE HERE. THE LION WHO KILLED THIS ELEPHANT HAS GONE TO BATHE LEAVING ME HERE TO GUARD IT.

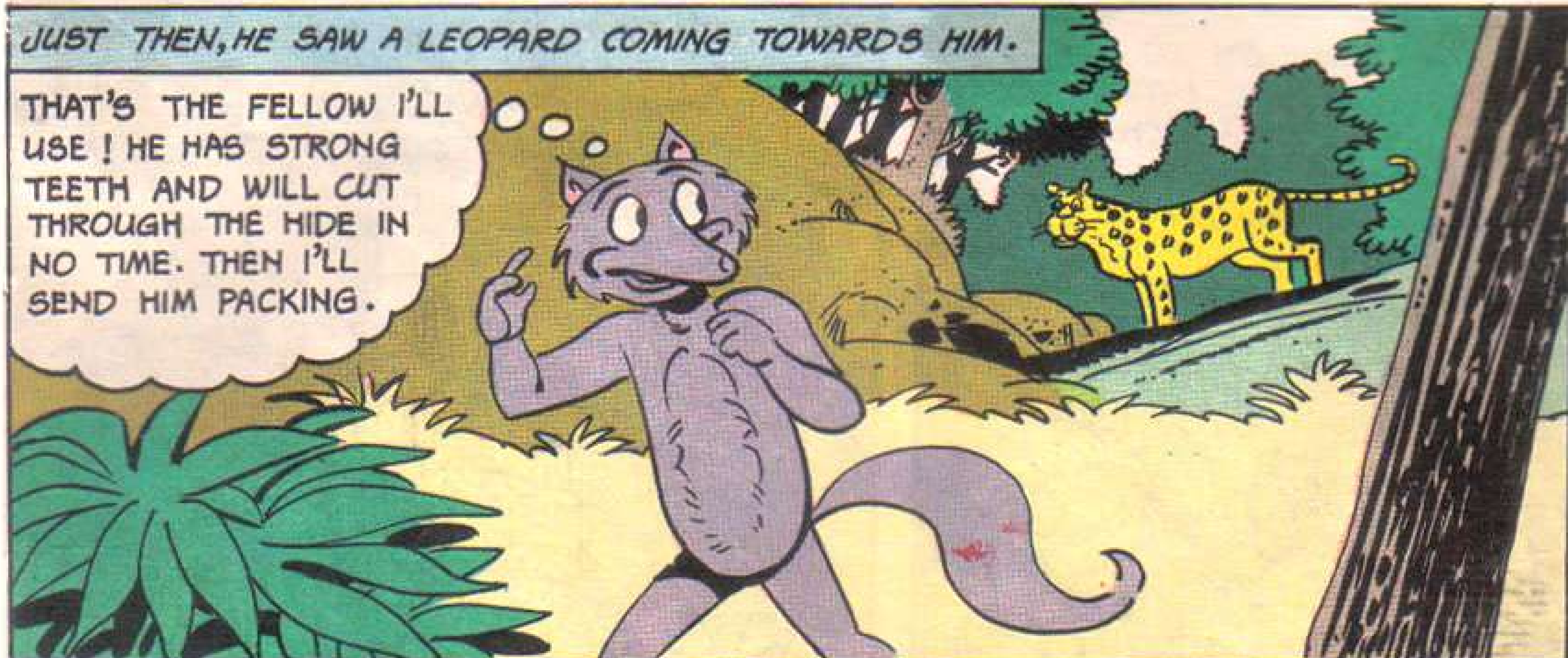

HE HATES TIGERS. ONE OF THEM ONCE ATE THE ELEPHANT HE HAD KILLED AND HE HAD TO EAT THE LEAVINGS.


HE HAS SWORN TO KILL EVERY TIGER HE MEETS IN THIS FOREST.

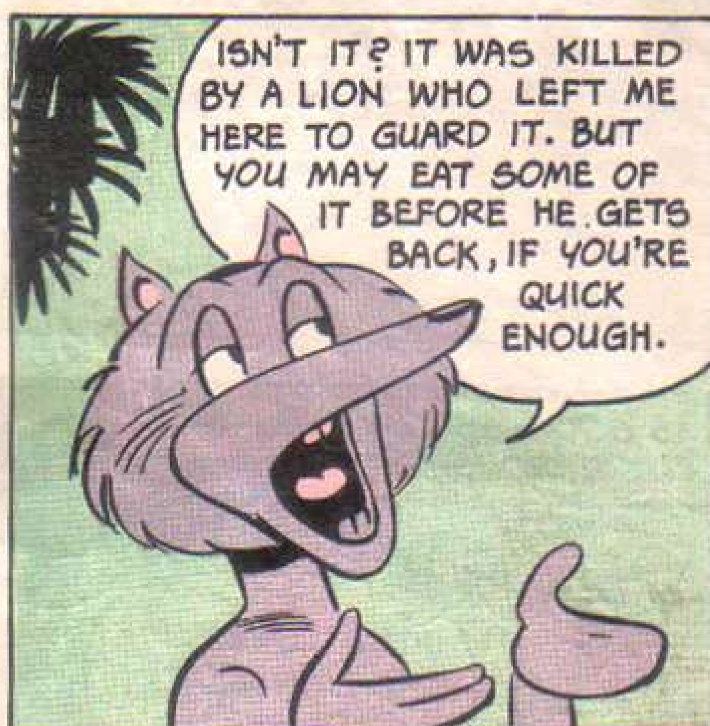

THANK YOU FOR WARNING ME, DEAR NEPHEW. DON'T TELL HIM YOU SAW ME. I'M OFF.

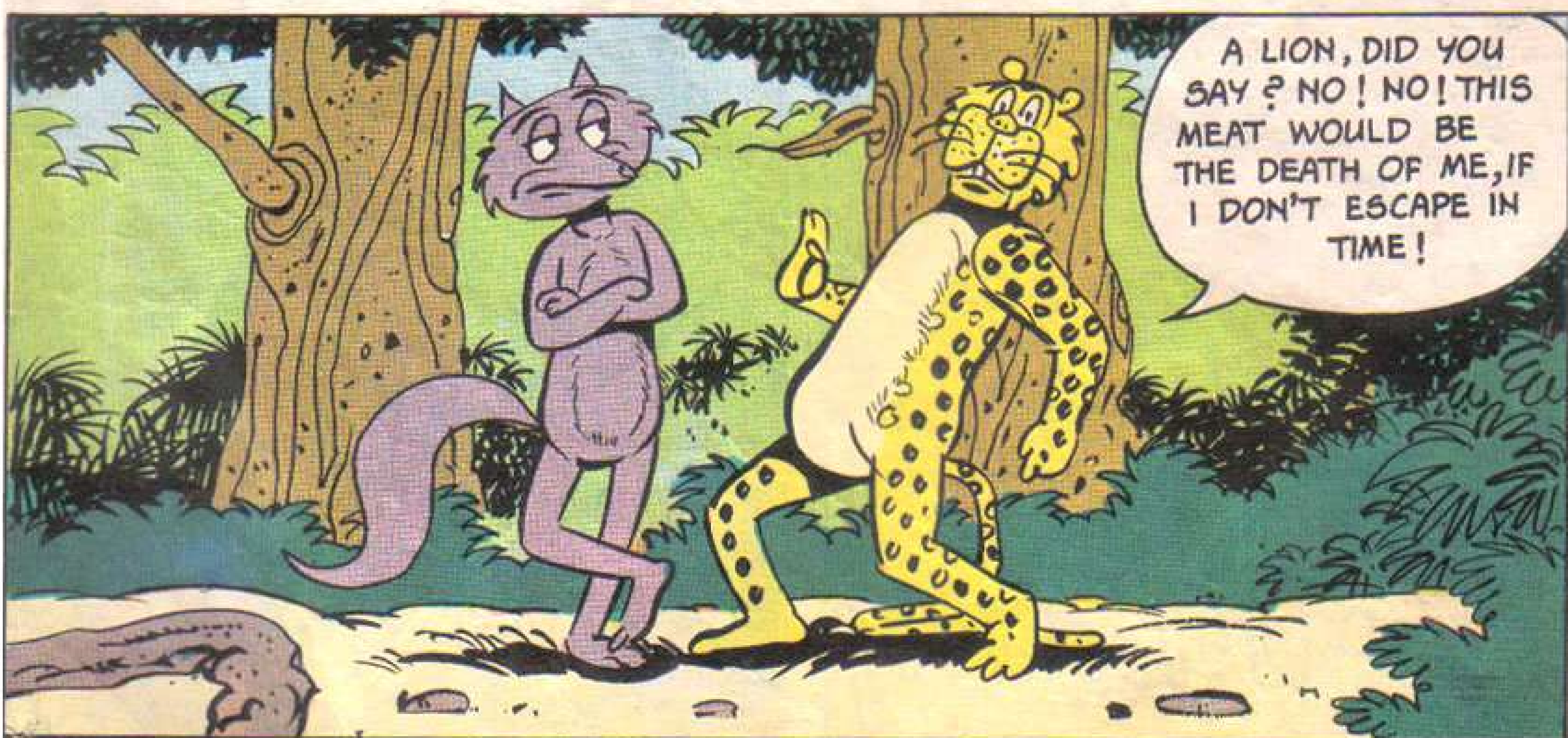

HA! HA! HA! HO! LOOK AT HIM RUN.


BUT I STILL HAVEN'T GOT TO THE FLESH OF THIS ELEPHANT!

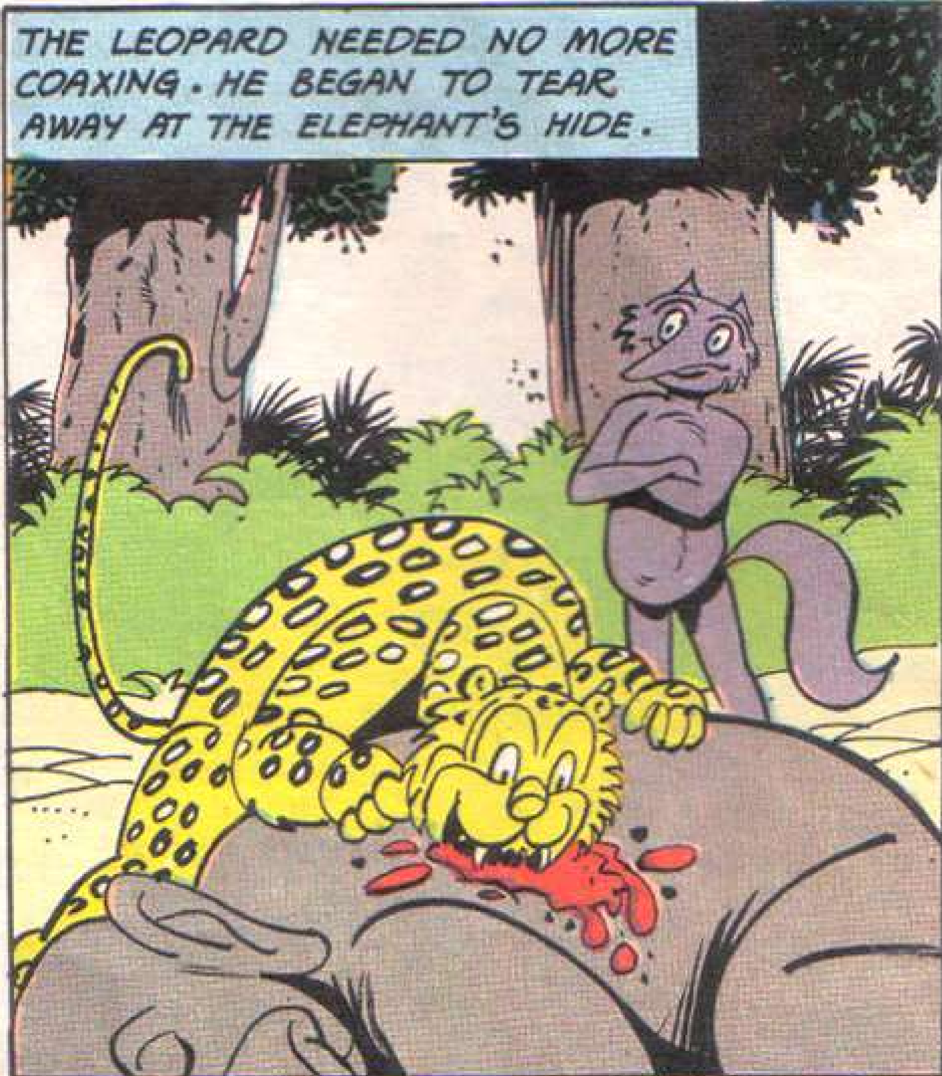

JUST THEN, HE SAW A LEOPARD COMING TOWARDS HIM.
THAT'S THE FELLOW I'LL USE ! HE HAS STRONG TEETH AND WILL CUT THROUGH THE HIDE IN NO TIME. THEN I'LL SEND HIM PACKING.


WELL, WELL, MY NEPHEW ! YOU SEEM HUNGRY.
I AM. THAT'S A FINE ELEPHANT YOU HAVE THERE.

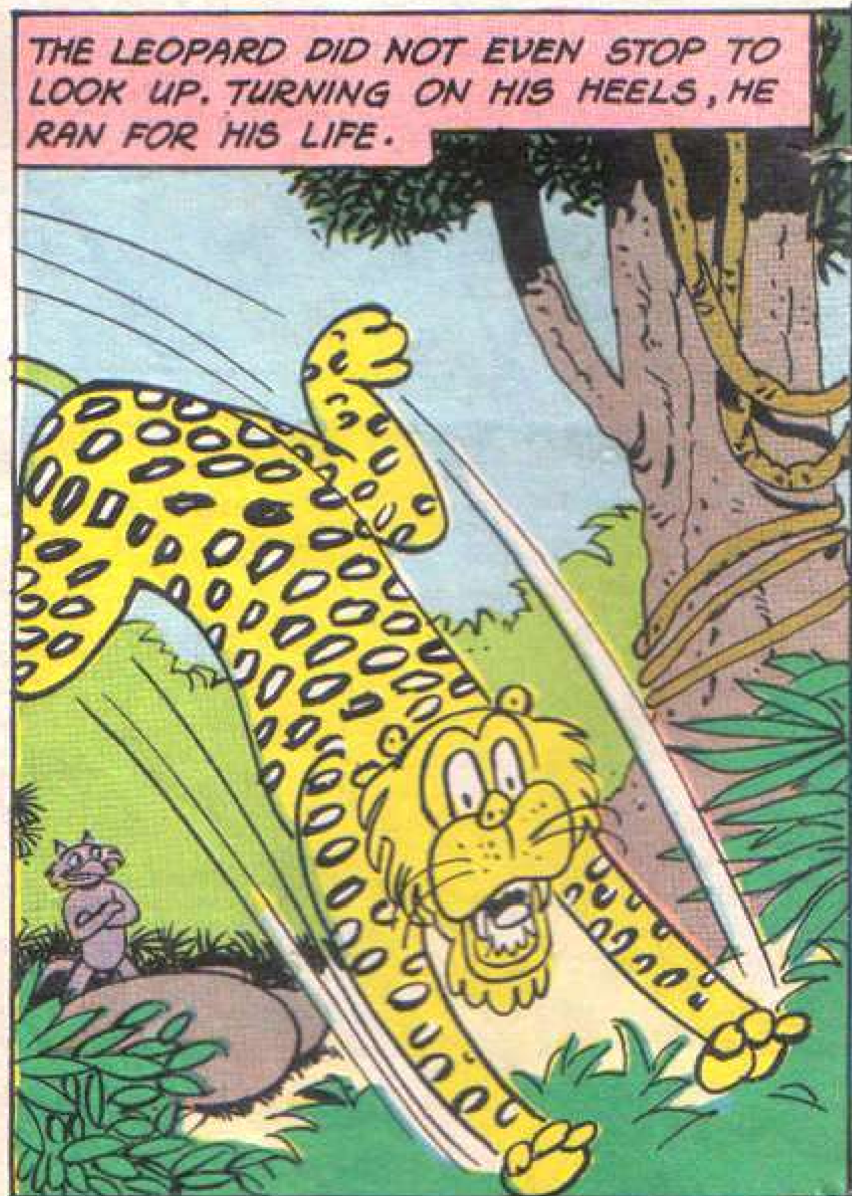

ISN'T IT? IT WAS KILLED BY A LION WHO LEFT ME HERE TO GUARD IT. BUT YOU MAY EAT SOME OF IT BEFORE HE GETS BACK, IF YOU'RE QUICK ENOUGH.

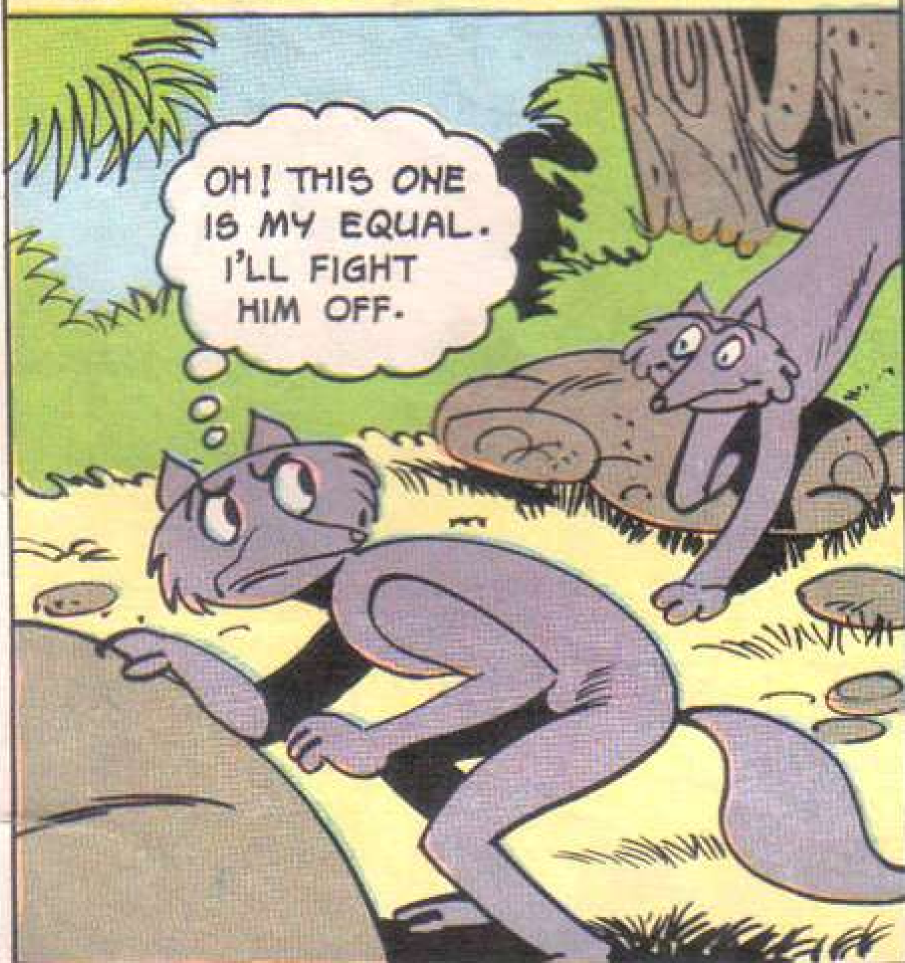

A LION, DID YOU SAY? NO! NO! THIS MEAT WOULD BE THE DEATH OF ME, IF I DON'T ESCAPE IN TIME!


COME ON. BE BOLD AND EAT. I'LL KEEP WATCH AND WARN YOU, IF I SEE HIM COMING.

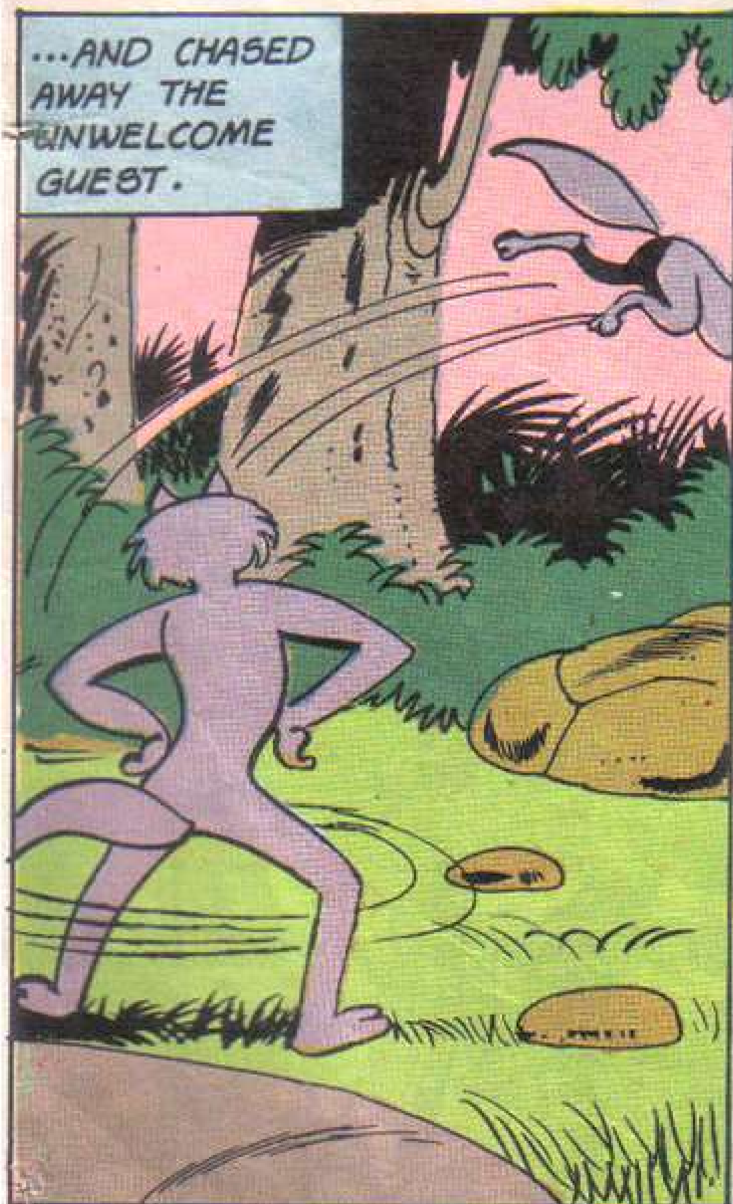

THE LEOPARD NEEDED NO MORE COAXING. HE BEGAN TO TEAR AWAY AT THE ELEPHANT'S HIDE.

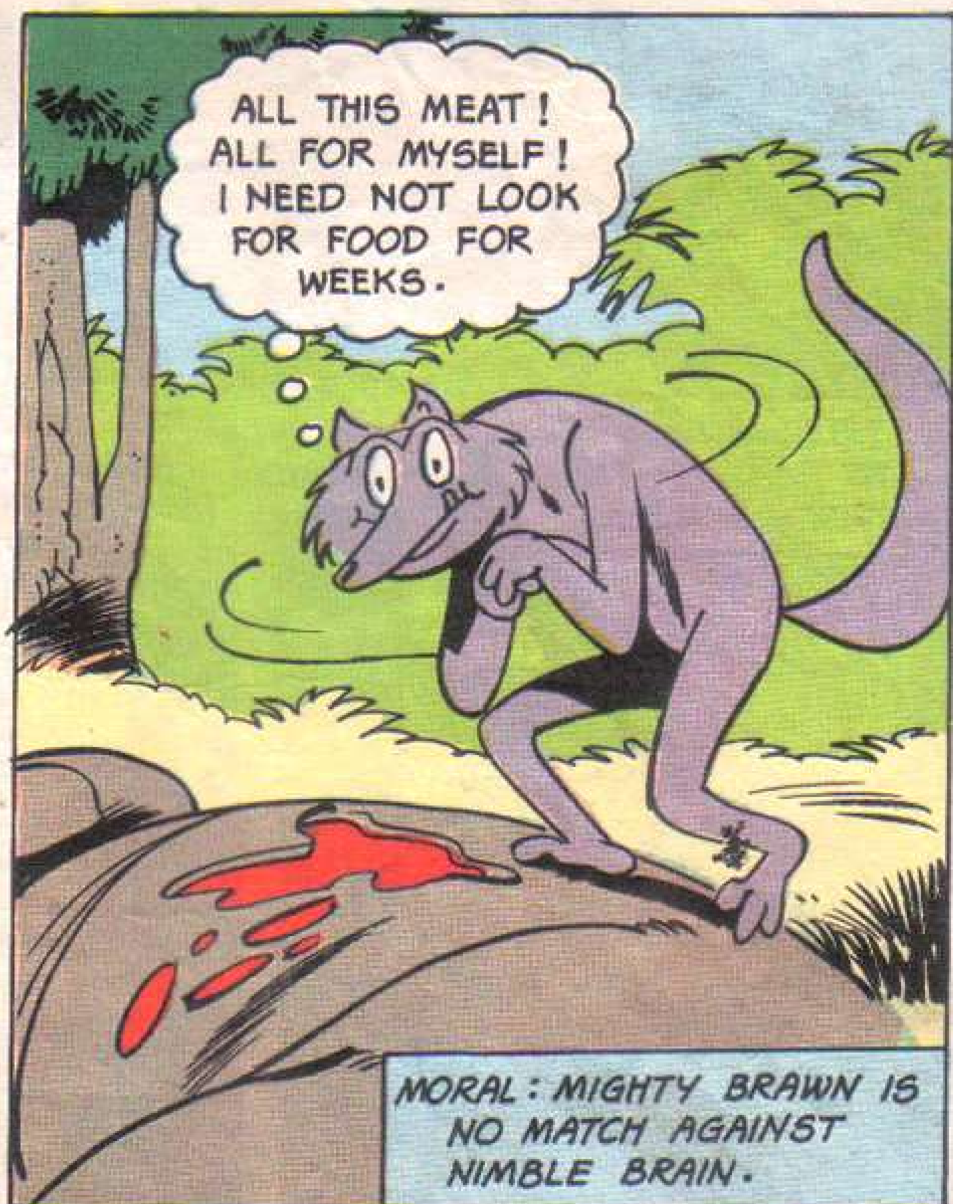

AS SOON AS THE HIDE WAS CUT THROUGH —
HERE COMES THE LION. QUICK! RUN OFF!


THE LEOPARD DID NOT EVEN STOP TO LOOK UP. TURNING ON HIS HEELS, HE RAN FOR HIS LIFE.


THE JACKAL WAS ABOUT TO FEED ON THE FLESH WHEN ANOTHER JACKAL CAME BY.
OH! THIS ONE IS MY EQUAL. I'LL FIGHT HIM OFF.

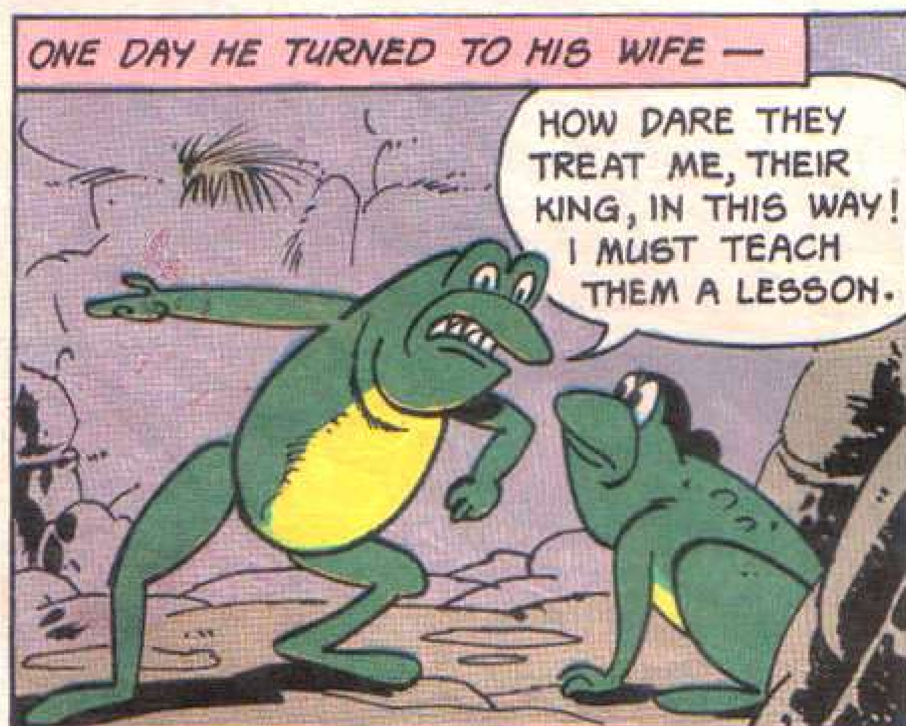

BARING HIS FANGS HE CHARGED...


...AND CHASED AWAY THE UNWELCOME GUEST.


ALL THIS MEAT! ALL FOR MYSELF! I NEED NOT LOOK FOR FOOD FOR WEEKS.
MORAL: MIGHTY BRAWN IS NO MATCH AGAINST NIMBLE BRAIN.

THE FROG KING AND THE SNAKE

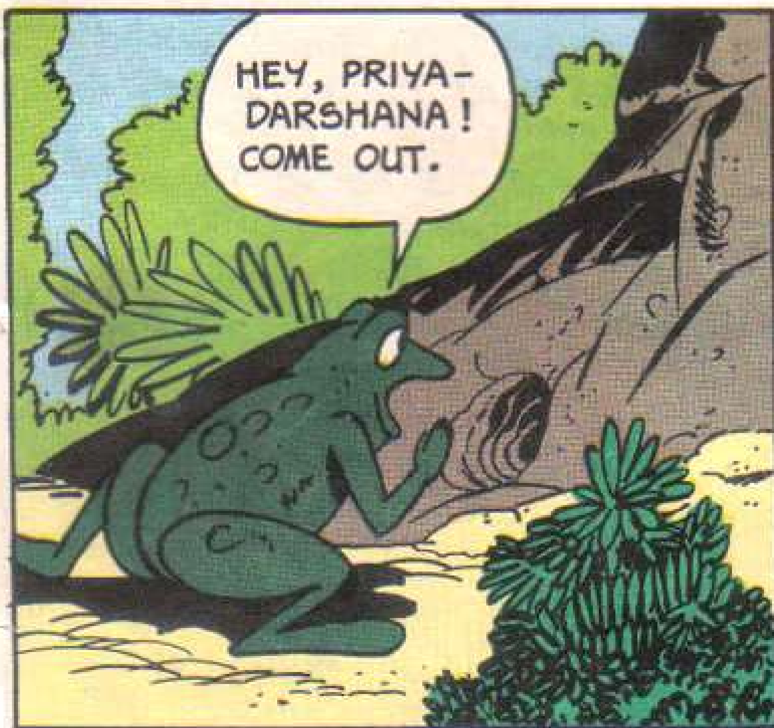


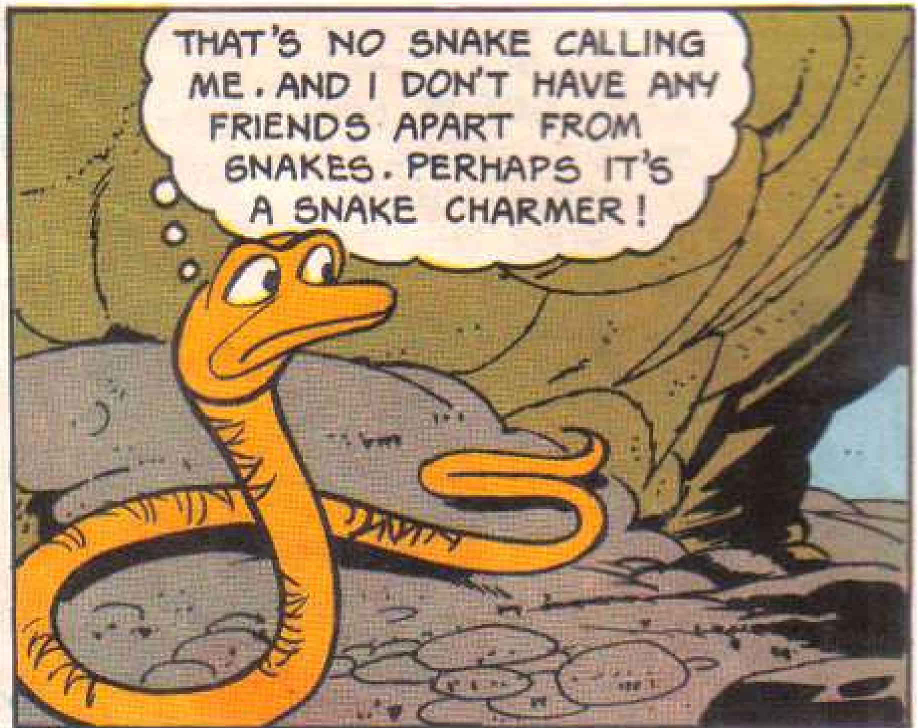




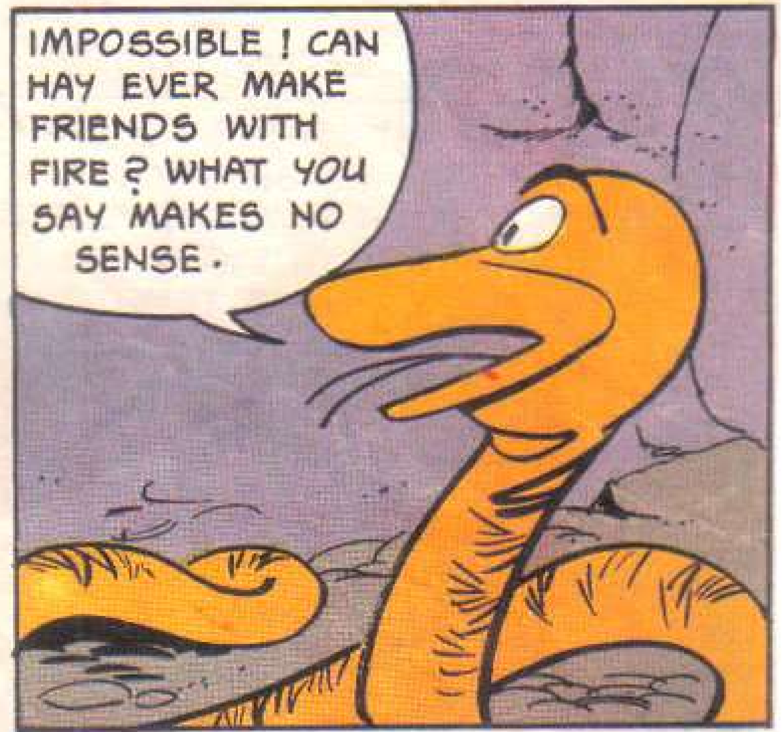





HEY, PRIYA-DARSHANA! COME OUT.

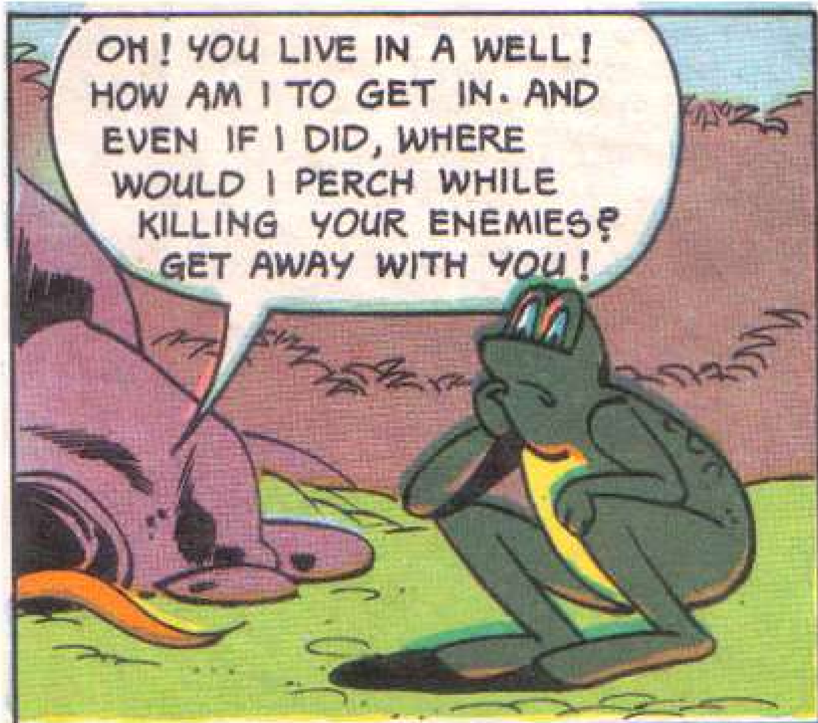

THAT'S NO SNAKE CALLING ME. AND I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS APART FROM SNAKES. PERHAPS IT'S A SNAKE CHARMER!


COME OUT, PRIYADARSHANA. I AM GANGADATTA, THE FROG-KING. I WANT TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH YOU.

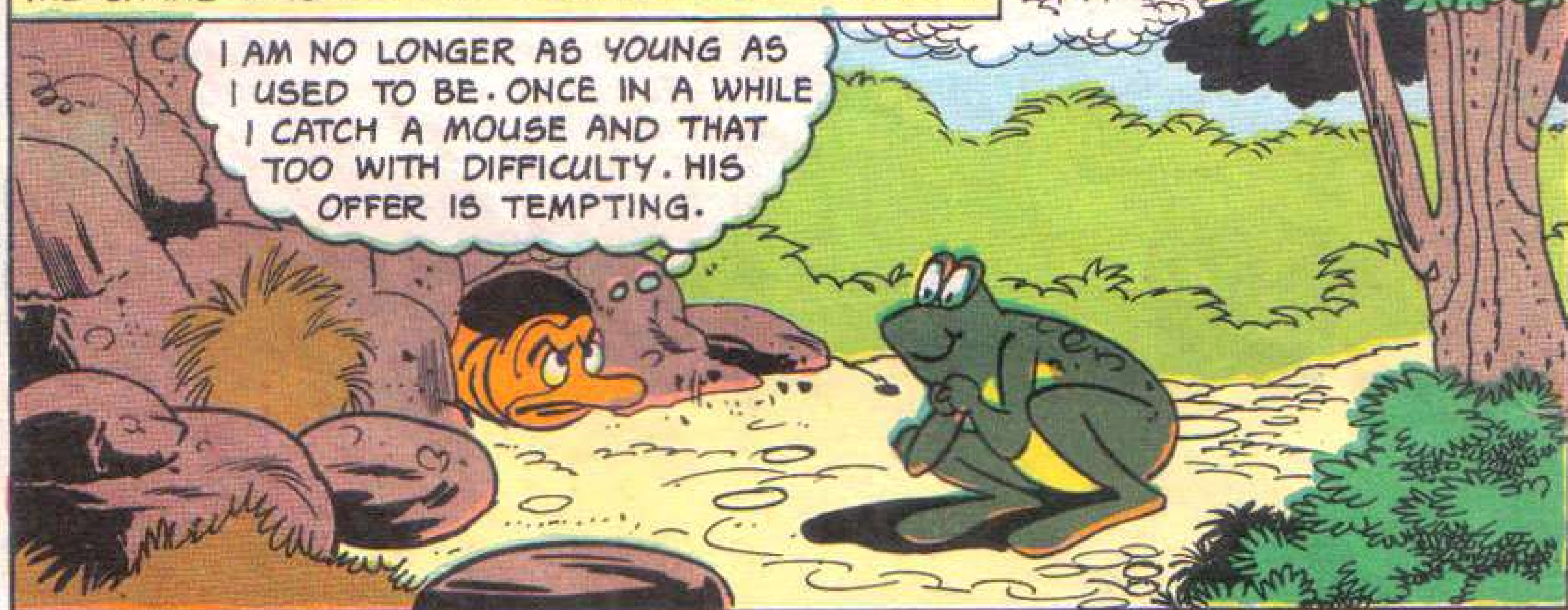

IMPOSSIBLE! CAN HAY EVER MAKE FRIENDS WITH FIRE? WHAT YOU SAY MAKES NO SENSE.

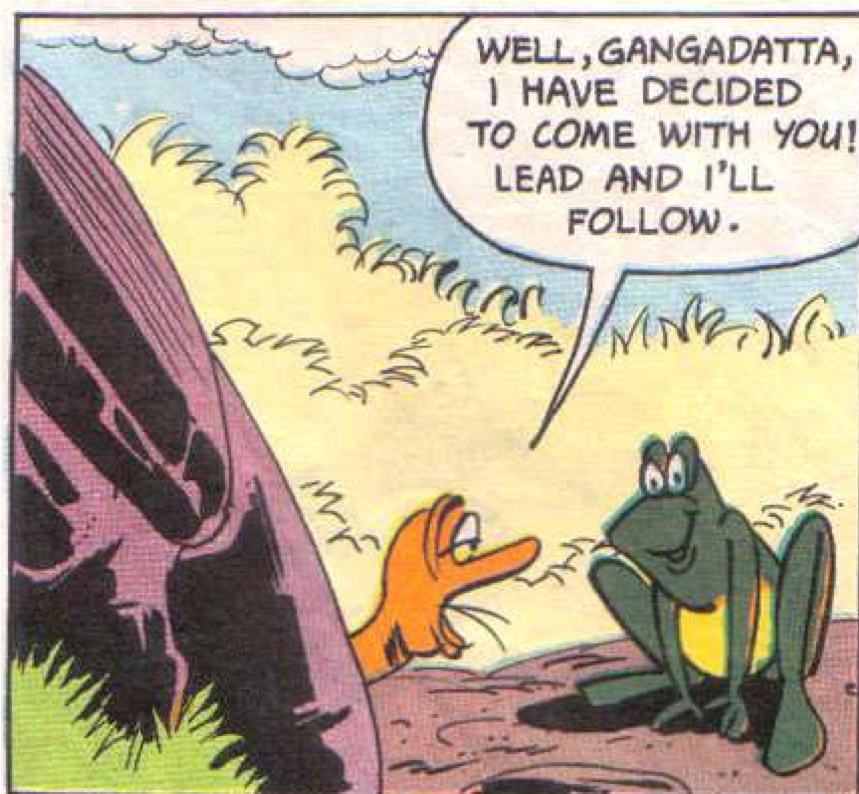

I AGREE THAT WE ARE BORN ENEMIES. NEVERTHE-LESS, I NEED YOUR HELP. I WANT YOU TO EAT MY ENEMIES.


WHO ARE THESE ENEMIES?
MY OWN RELATIVES. THEY LIVE IN THE SAME WELL AS I DO.


OH! YOU LIVE IN A WELL! HOW AM I TO GET IN. AND EVEN IF I DID, WHERE WOULD I PERCH WHILE KILLING YOUR ENEMIES? GET AWAY WITH YOU!


WAIT, MY FRIEND, I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO GET INTO THE WELL. AND I'LL ALSO SHOW YOU A COMFORTABLE HOLE, A LITTLE ABOVE THE WATER, WHERE YOU CAN REST. PLEASE COME OUT.


THE SNAKE WAS DEEP IN THOUGHT FOR A WHILE.
I AM NO LONGER AS YOUNG AS I USED TO BE. ONCE IN A WHILE I CATCH A MOUSE AND THAT TOO WITH DIFFICULTY. HIS OFFER IS TEMPTING.


WELL, GANGADATTA, I HAVE DECIDED TO COME WITH YOU! LEAD AND I'LL FOLLOW.


THANK YOU, MY FRIEND. BUT THERE'S ONE THING. YOU MUST SPARE MY OWN FAMILY AND EAT ONLY THOSE WHOM I TELL YOU TO EAT.


YOU ARE MY FRIEND NOW, GANGA-DATTA. I WOULDN'T TOUCH YOUR FAMILY.

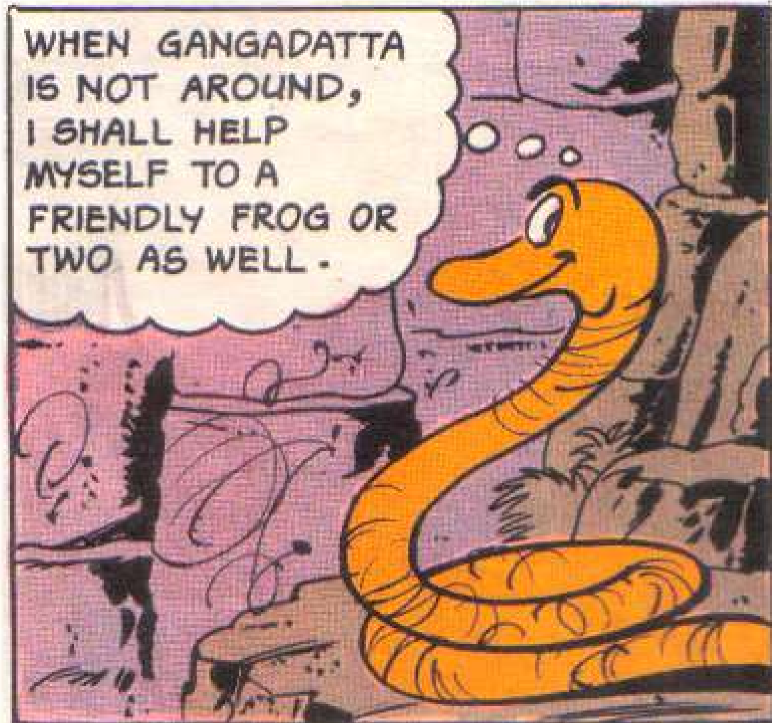

THE SNAKE THEN CAME OUT OF HIS HOLE.
COME. LET US NOT WASTE ANY TIME.


WHEN THEY REACHED THE EDGE OF THE WELL —
FOLLOW ME. IT'S VERY EASY.


A LITTLE LATER —
THAT'S THE HOLE. SETTLE YOURSELF THERE.


WHEN THE SNAKE WAS COMFORTABLY SETTLED —
THERE ! THOSE ARE THE FROGS THAT TORMENT ME.


ONE BY ONE THE SNAKE SOON ATE UP ALL THE ENEMIES OF THE FROG-KING.

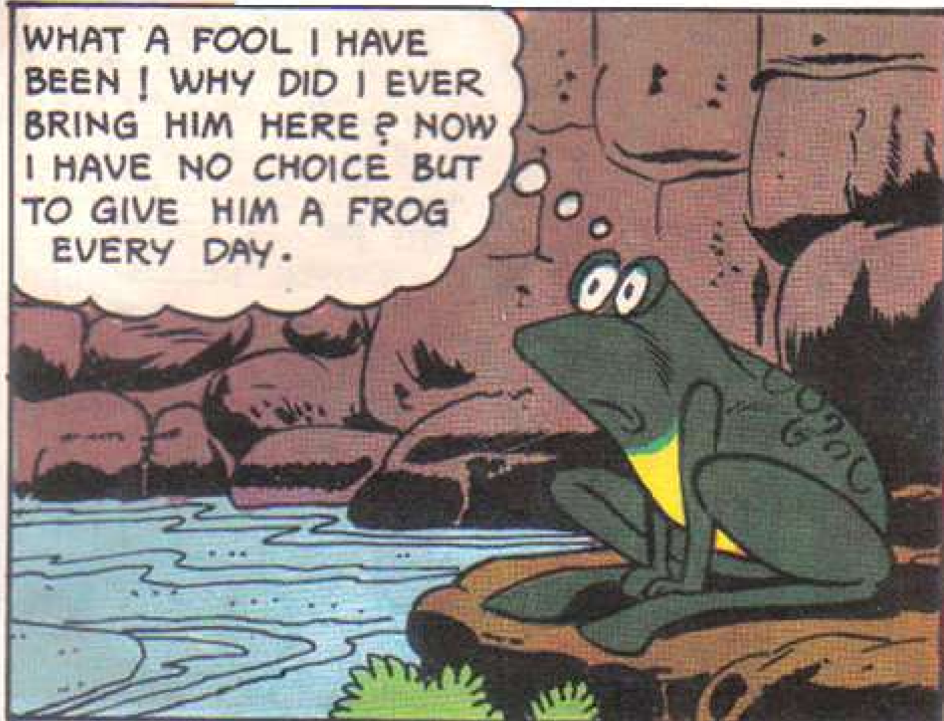

WHEN GANGADATTA IS NOT AROUND, I SHALL HELP MYSELF TO A FRIENDLY FROG OR TWO AS WELL.

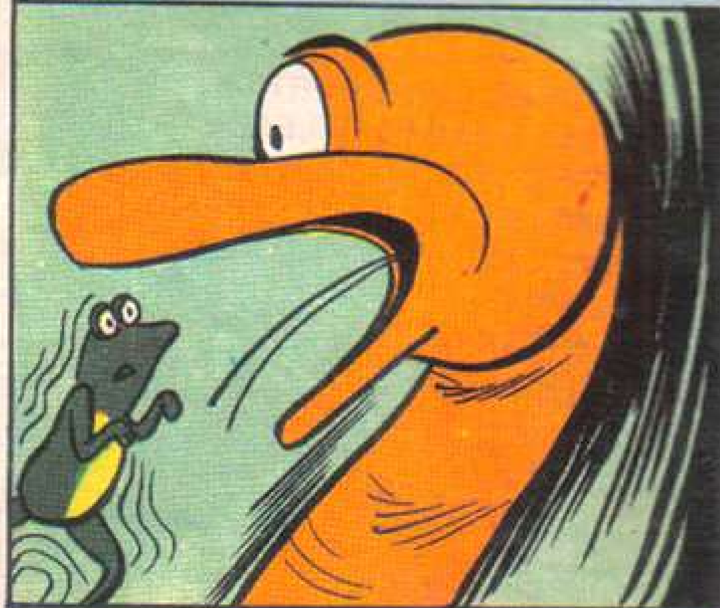

WHEN GANGADATTA CAME TO SEE HIM—
I'VE EATEN ALL YOUR ENEMIES!
GOOD! NOW YOU MAY RETURN TO YOUR HOLE, THE WAY YOU CAME, MY FRIEND.

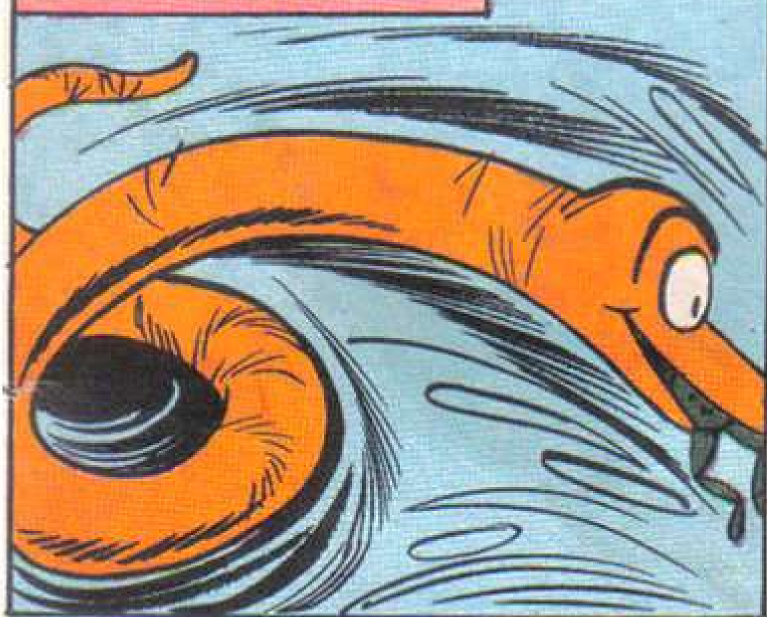

RETURN TO MY HOLE? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS. SOME OTHER SNAKE WOULD HAVE MOVED INTO IT THE VERY DAY I LEFT.


NO, MY FRIEND, I WILL HAVE TO STAY HERE. AND SINCE YOU TOOK ME OUT OF MY HOLE, IT IS YOUR DUTY TO FEED ME.

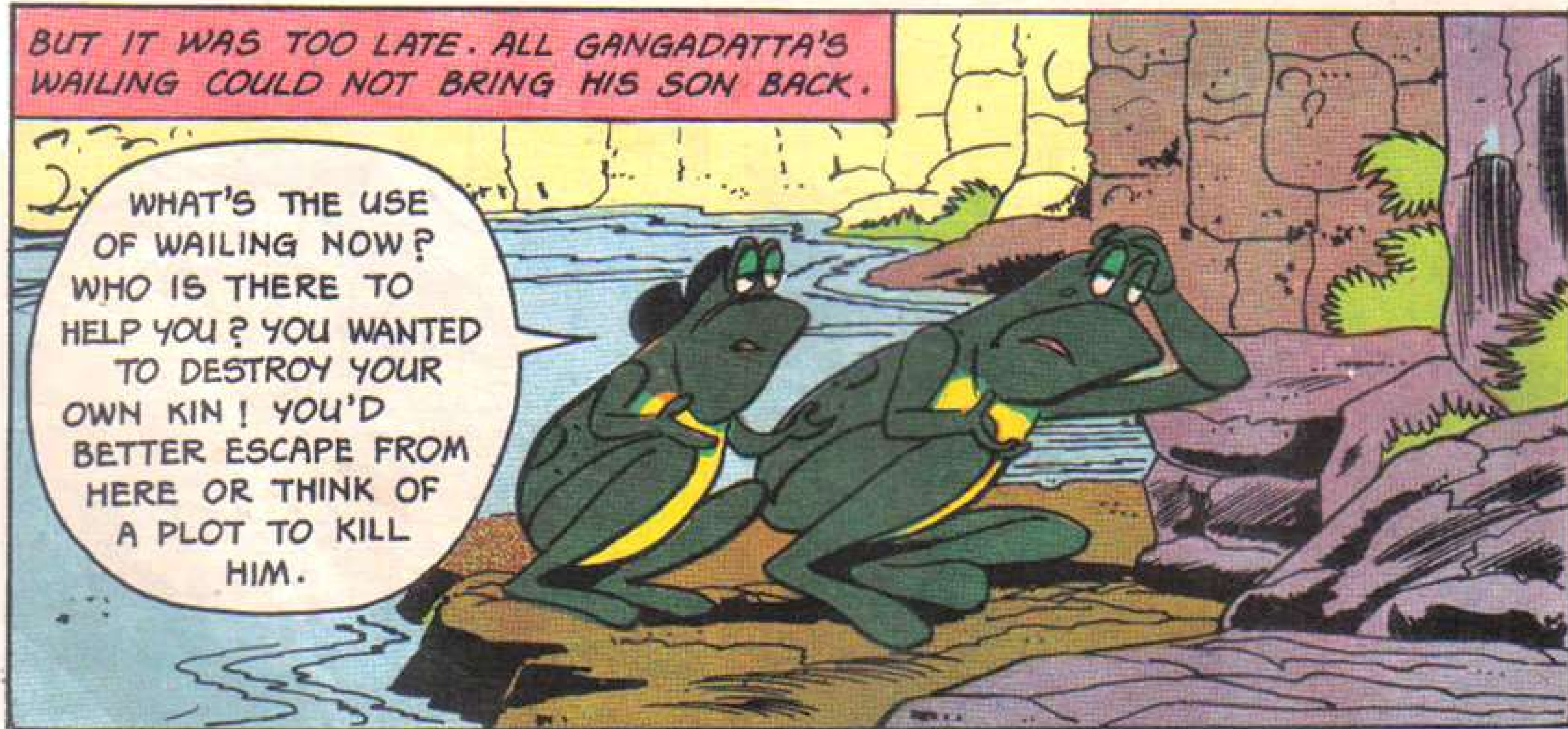

YOU MUST GIVE ME ONE FROG AT A TIME, FROM YOUR FRIENDS AND YOUR OWN FAMILY. IF YOU DON'T, I'LL EAT YOU ALL UP.


WHAT A FOOL I HAVE BEEN ! WHY DID I EVER BRING HIM HERE ? NOW I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GIVE HIM A FROG EVERY DAY.


THE SNAKE HOWEVER NOT ONLY ATE THE FROG SENT TO HIM...


...BUT ANOTHER TOO BEHIND THE FROG-KING'S BACK.


ONE DAY, THE EXTRA FROG HE ATE WAS GANGADATTA'S OWN SON; AND GANGADATTA CAUGHT HIM IN THE ACT.
NO! NO! NOT THAT ONE, MY FRIEND. IT'S MY SON!


BUT IT WAS TOO LATE. ALL GANGADATTA'S WAILING COULD NOT BRING HIS SON BACK.
WHAT'S THE USE OF WAILING NOW? WHO IS THERE TO HELP YOU? YOU WANTED TO DESTROY YOUR OWN KIN! YOU'D BETTER ESCAPE FROM HERE OR THINK OF A PLOT TO KILL HIM.


THE DAYS WENT BY, GANGADATTA HAD NO PLAN AND ALL THE FROGS IN THE WELL WERE EATEN. ALL BUT HIMSELF.
DEAR GANGADATTA, I'M HUNGRY. PLEASE FIND ME SOMETHING TO EAT. IT'S YOUR DUTY TO DO SO.
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO ESCAPE.

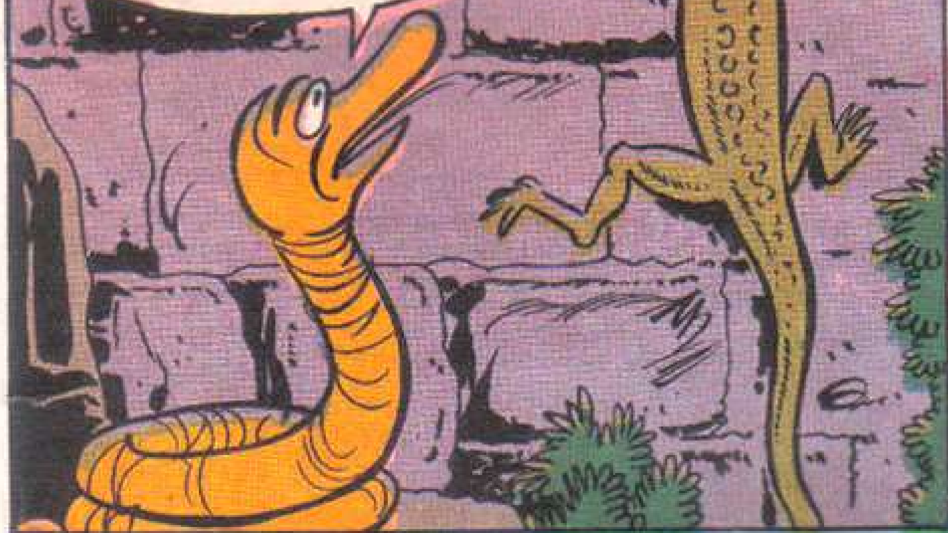

MY FRIEND, AS LONG AS I'M ALIVE YOU WON'T GO HUNGRY. PERMIT ME TO LEAVE THIS WELL AND I'LL BRING YOU ALL THE FROGS FROM OTHER WELLS.


YOU, WHO HAVE BEEN LIKE A BROTHER TO ME, I'LL NEVER EAT NOW. IF YOU DO AS YOU PROMISE, YOU WILL BE LIKE A FATHER TO ME.


NOT WASTING ANOTHER MOMENT, THE FROG ESCAPED FROM THE WELL.

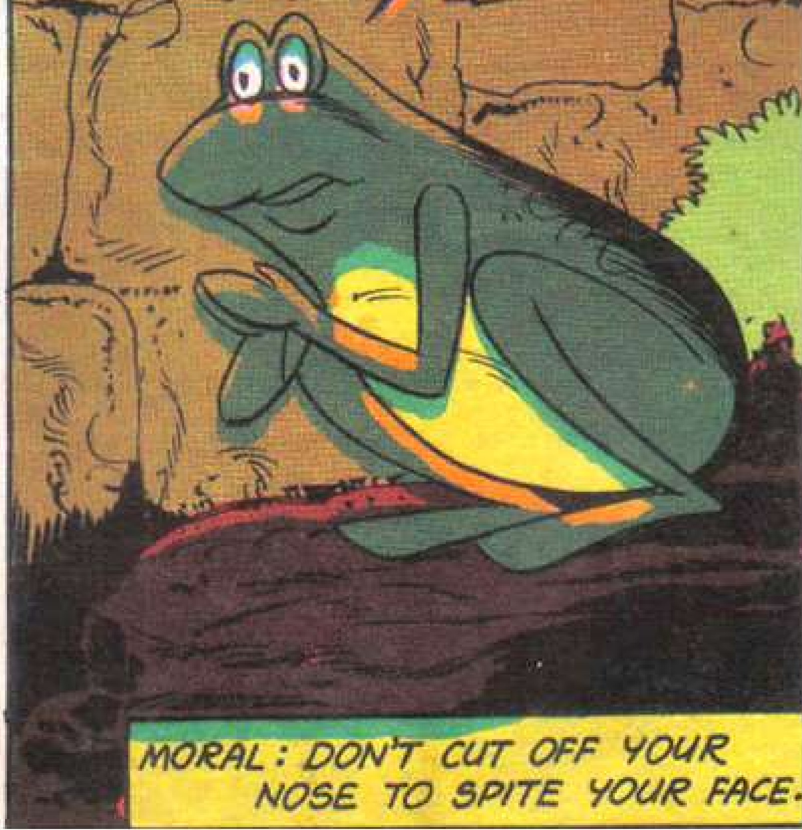

I'D BETTER FIND MYSELF ANOTHER WELL TO LIVE IN.

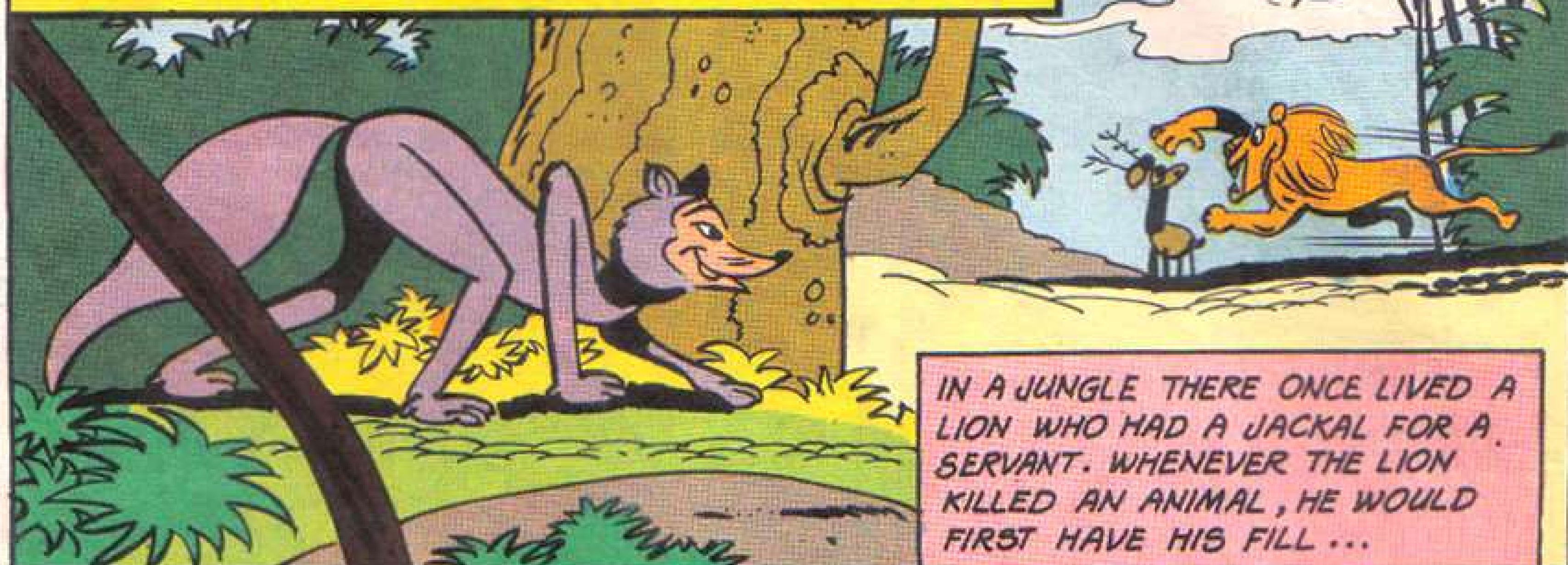

MEANWHILE, THE SNAKE WAITED IN VAIN FOR HIS RETURN.
I SHOULD NOT HAVE LET HIM GO.


MANY DAYS LATER, THE OLD SNAKE TURNED TO A LIZARD WHO LIVED IN THE SAME WELL.
MADAM, YOU AND GANGADATTA ARE OLD FRIENDS. PLEASE FIND HIM AND ASK HIM TO RETURN QUICKLY. NEVER MIND IF HE CAN'T GET OTHER FROGS TO COME.

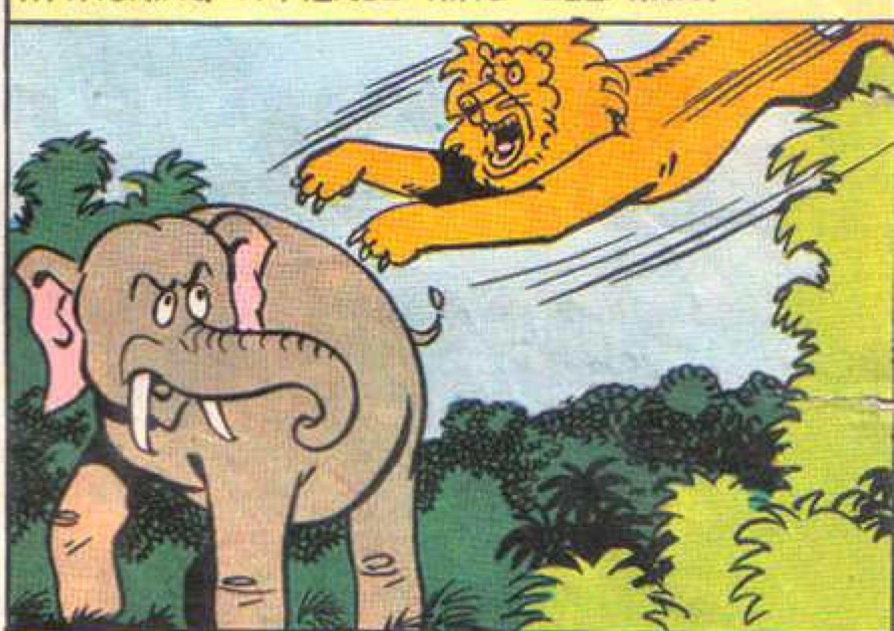

TELL HIM THAT I WILL NOT HURT HIM; THAT I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT HIM.

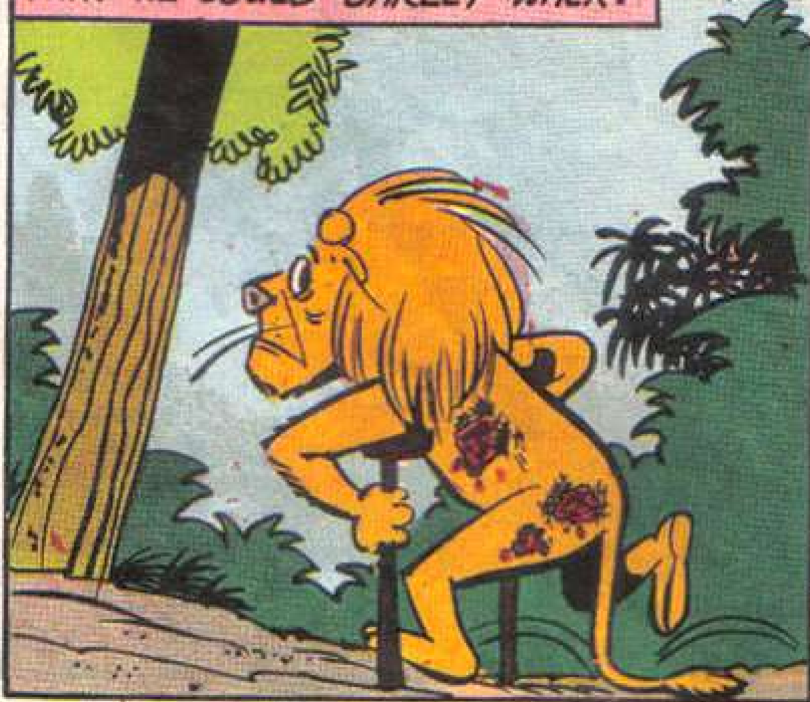

AFTER HUNTING IN ALL THE NEIGHBOURING WELLS, THE LIZARD AT LAST FOUND THE FROG-KING.
DEAR GANGADATTA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ? YOUR FRIEND, PRIYADARSHANA IS ANXIOUSLY AWAITING YOUR RETURN. HE PROMISES NOT TO HARM YOU. SO COME HOME.

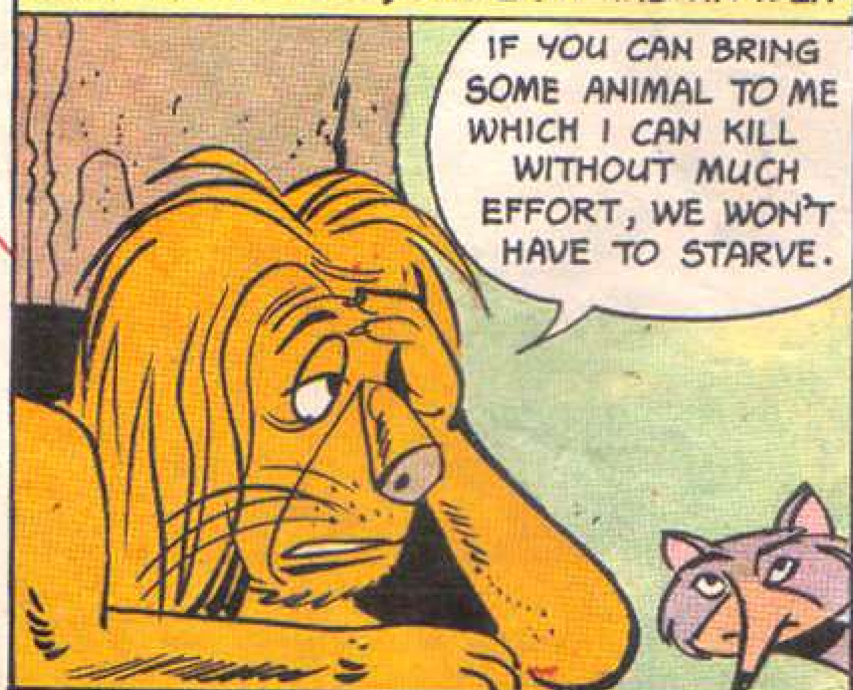

A STARVING MAN IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED. I'VE LEARNT MY LESSON. HE WILL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN.
MORAL: DON'T CUT OFF YOUR NOSE TO SPITE YOUR FACE.


THE LION, THE JACKAL AND THE DONKEY
IN A JUNGLE THERE ONCE LIVED A LION WHO HAD A JACKAL FOR A SERVANT. WHENEVER THE LION KILLED AN ANIMAL, HE WOULD FIRST HAVE HIS FILL ...


... AND LEAVE THE REST FOR THE JACKAL.

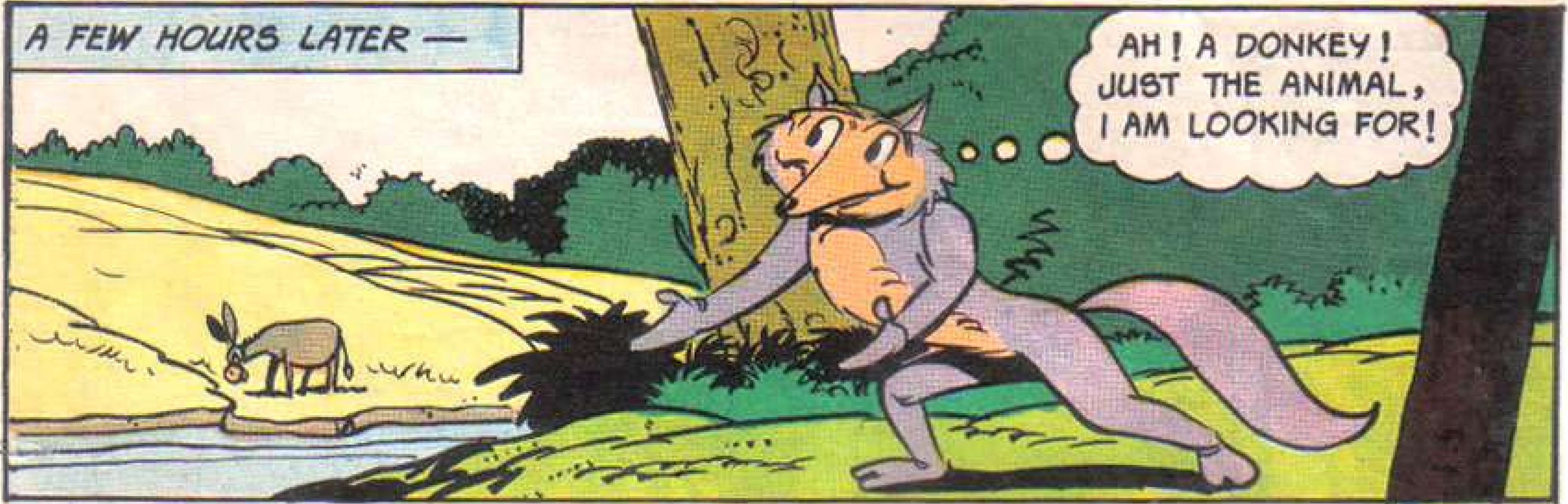

ONE DAY, THE LION MADE THE MISTAKE OF ATTACKING A FIERCE KING-ELEPHANT.

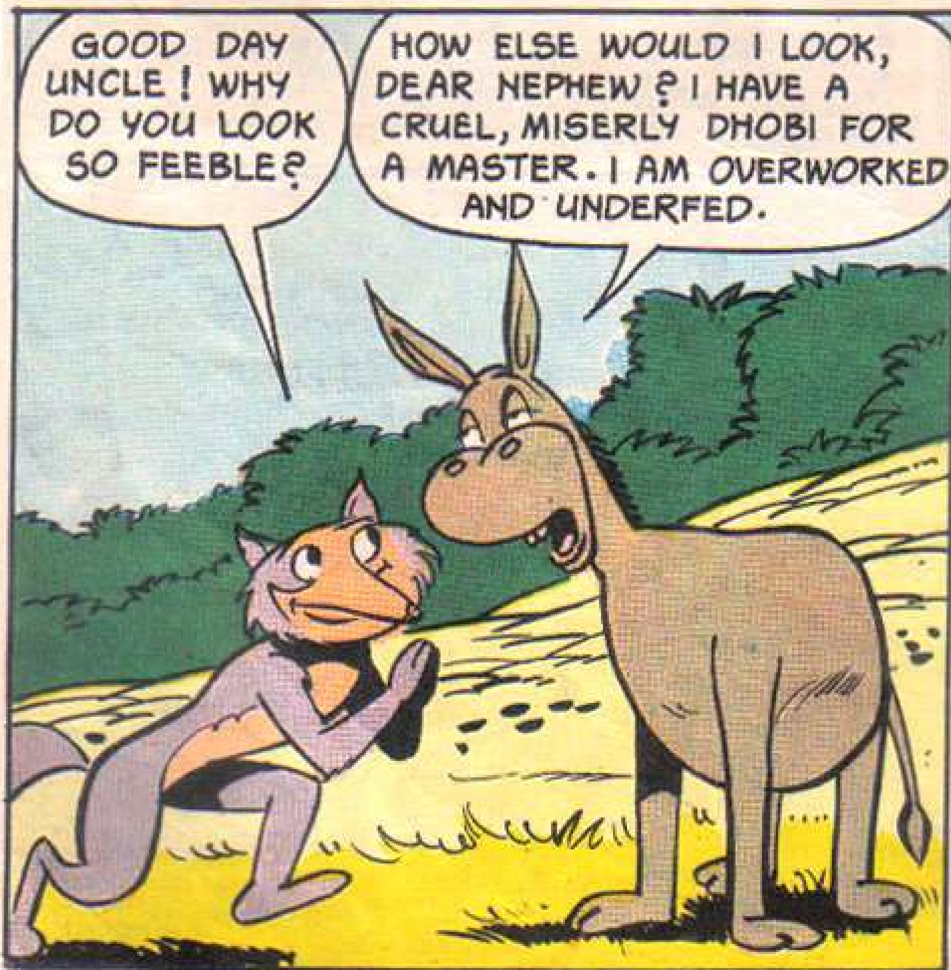

THE ELEPHANT WOUNDED HIM SO BADLY THAT HE COULD BARELY WALK.


FOR A WEEK, MASTER AND SERVANT STARVED. AT LAST, THE LION HAD AN IDEA.
IF YOU CAN BRING SOME ANIMAL TO ME WHICH I CAN KILL WITHOUT MUCH EFFORT, WE WON'T HAVE TO STARVE.

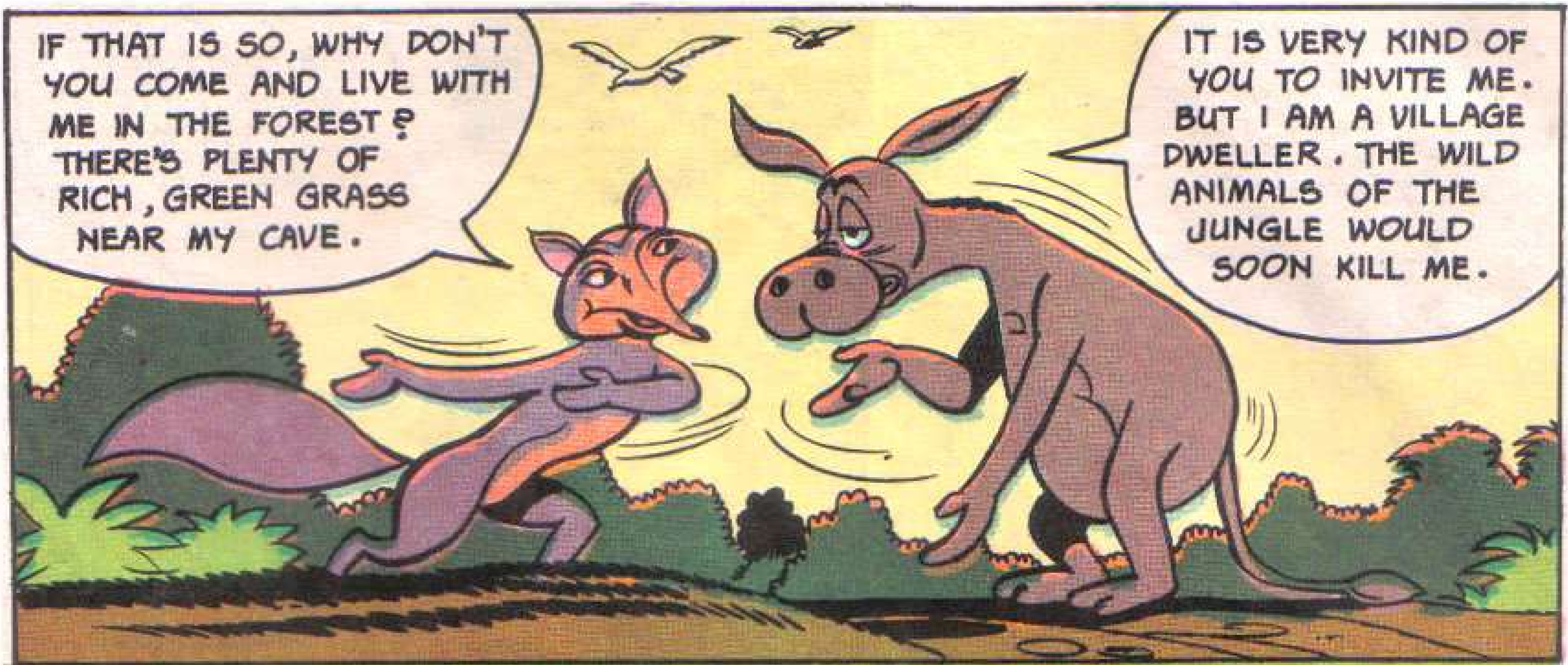

THE JACKAL SLOWLY ROSE TO HIS FEET AND SET OUT.


THAT'S A FINE DEER BUT TOO FAST FOR MY WOUNDED MASTER.


A FEW HOURS LATER —
AH ! A DONKEY ! JUST THE ANIMAL, I AM LOOKING FOR !

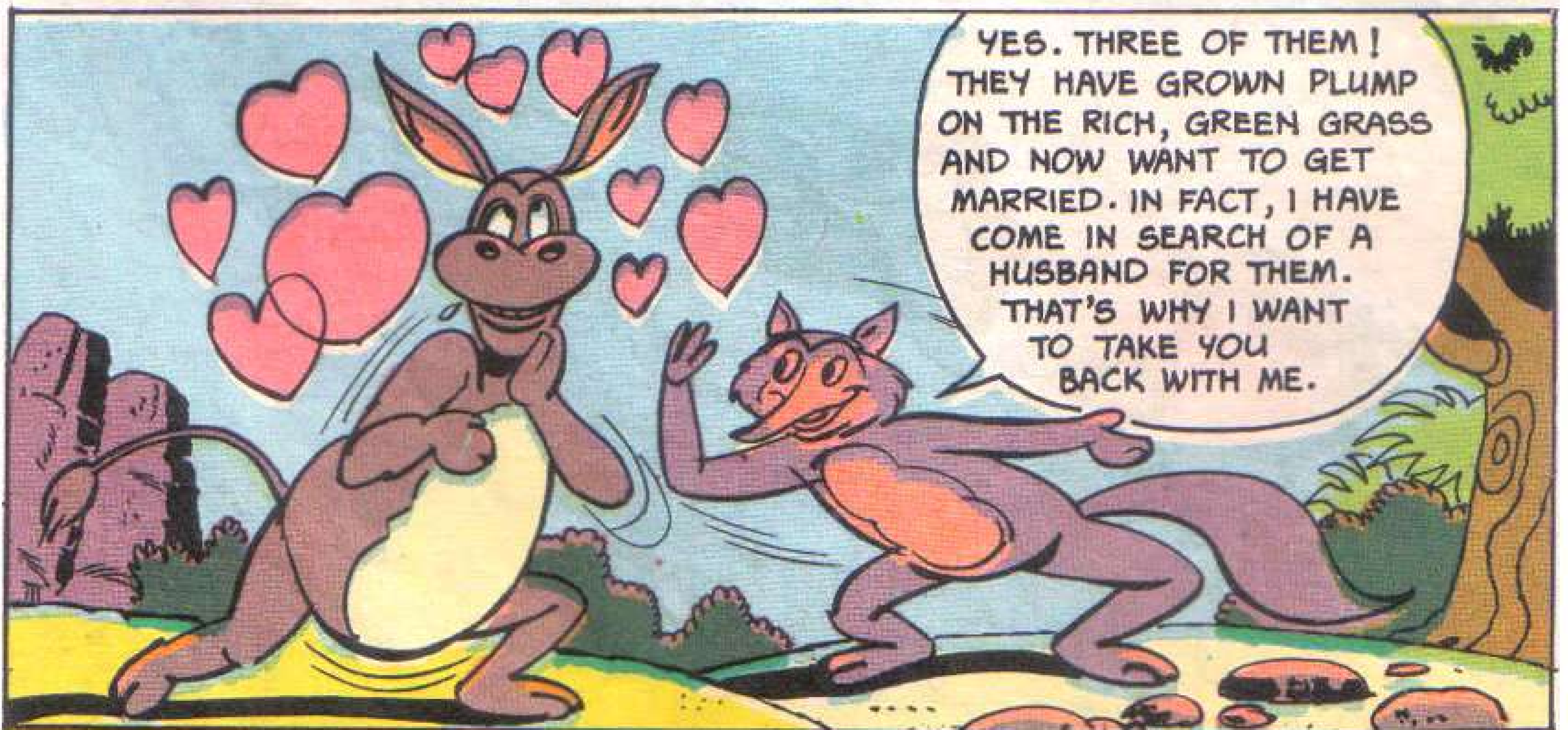

GOOD DAY UNCLE ! WHY DO YOU LOOK SO FEEBLE?
HOW ELSE WOULD I LOOK, DEAR NEPHEW ? I HAVE A CRUEL, MISERLY DHOBI FOR A MASTER. I AM OVERWORKED AND UNDERFED.

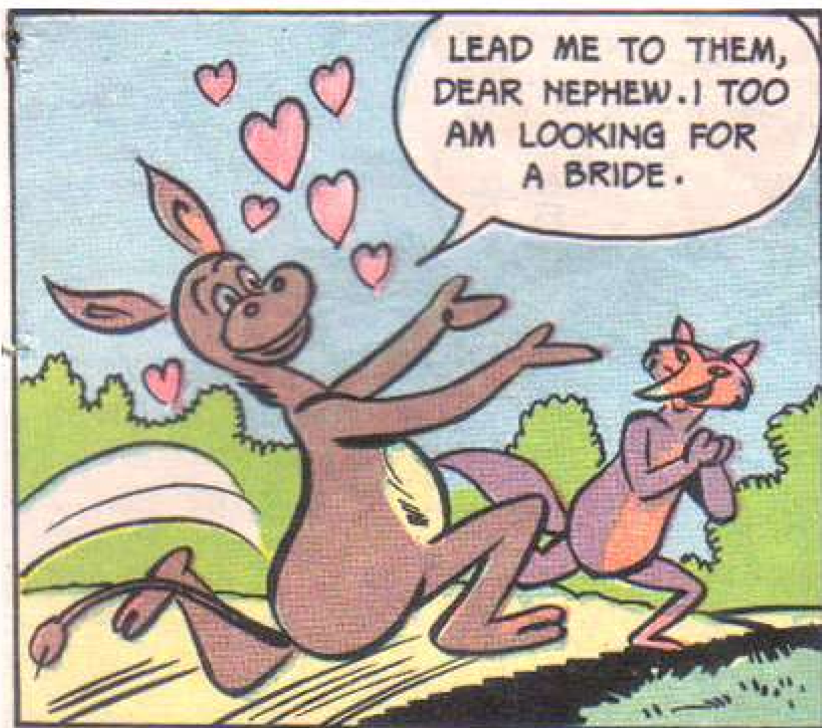

NOT A HANDFUL OF RICH FODDER HAVE I EATEN IN AGES ! ALL THAT I LIVE ON IS THIS DRY GRASS.


IF THAT IS SO, WHY DON'T YOU COME AND LIVE WITH ME IN THE FOREST? THERE'S PLENTY OF RICH, GREEN GRASS NEAR MY CAVE.
IT IS VERY KIND OF YOU TO INVITE ME. BUT I AM A VILLAGE DWELLER. THE WILD ANIMALS OF THE JUNGLE WOULD SOON KILL ME.

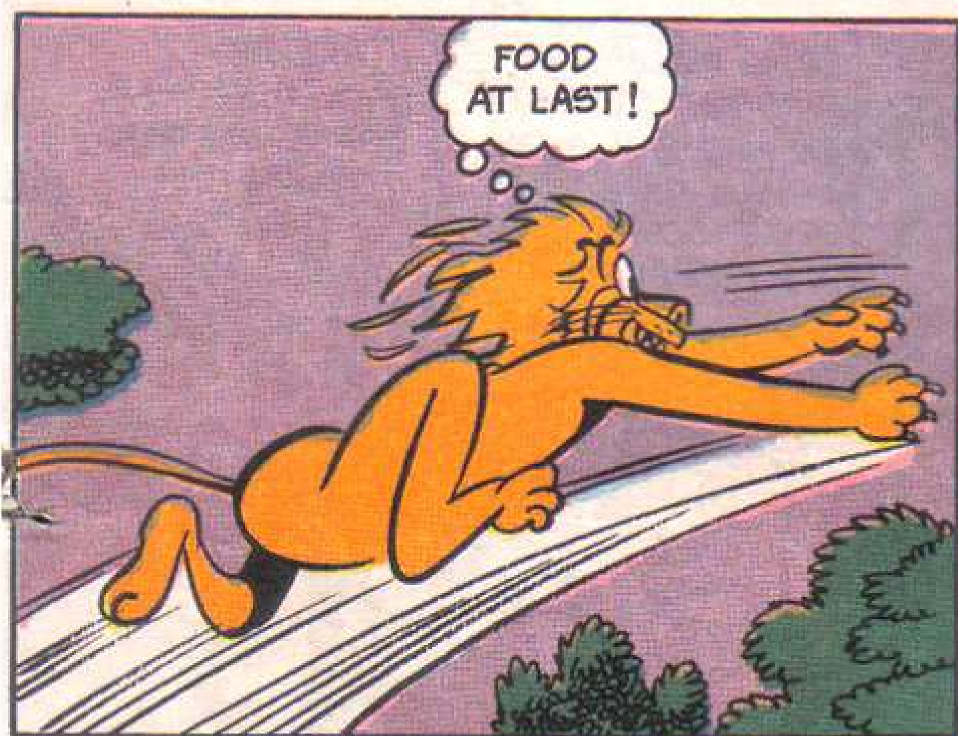

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT, UNCLE. NO ONE DARES TO COME NEAR MY CAVE. THEY FEAR MY POWERFUL PAWS AND CLAWS.


DO YOU KNOW, THREE SHE-DONKEYS WHO WERE TORTURED LIKE YOU BY THEIR MASTERS ARE NOW LIVING UNDER MY PROTECTION.
SHE-DONKEYS?

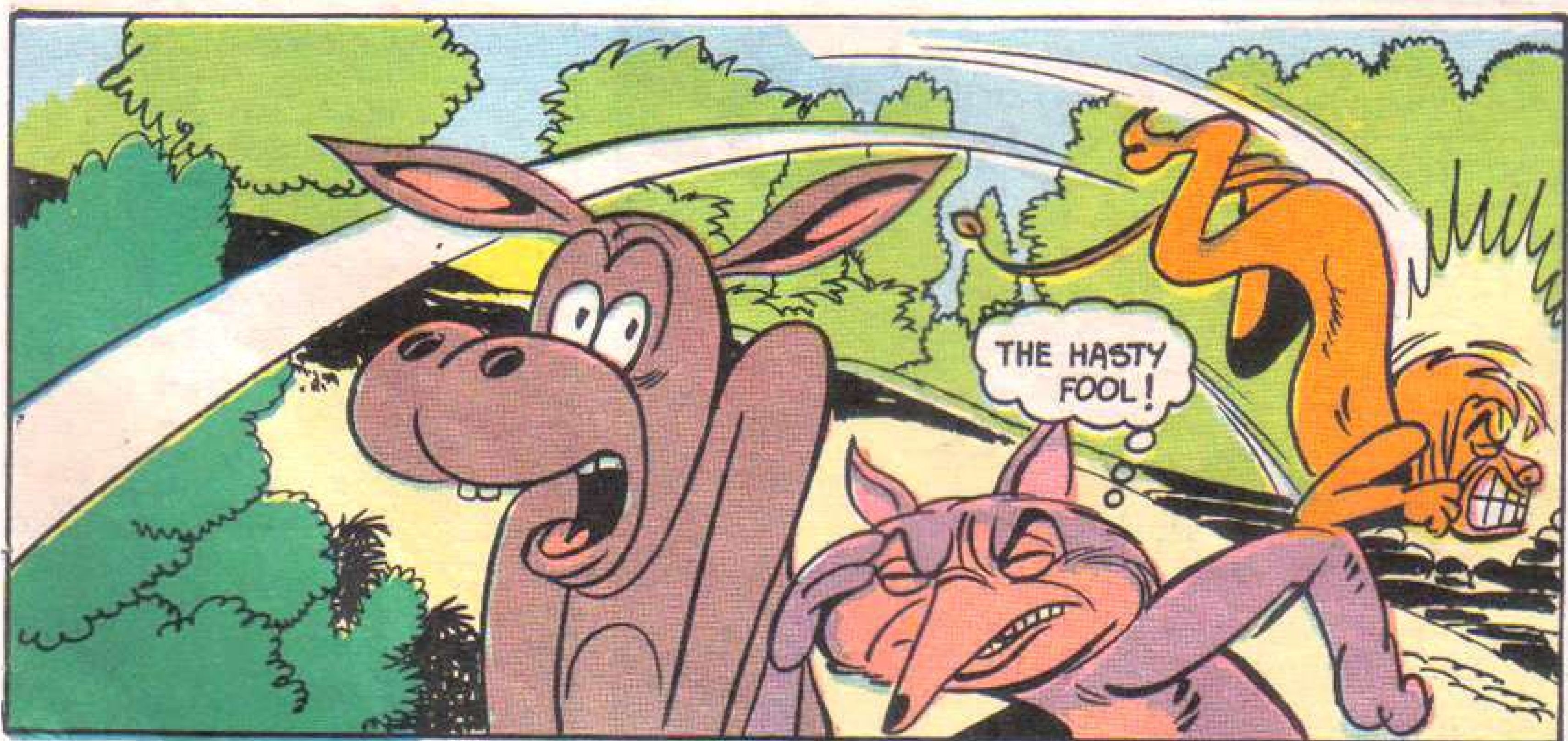

YES. THREE OF THEM! THEY HAVE GROWN PLUMP ON THE RICH, GREEN GRASS AND NOW WANT TO GET MARRIED. IN FACT, I HAVE COME IN SEARCH OF A HUSBAND FOR THEM. THAT'S WHY I WANT TO TAKE YOU BACK WITH ME.


LEAD ME TO THEM, DEAR NEPHEW. I TOO AM LOOKING FOR A BRIDE.

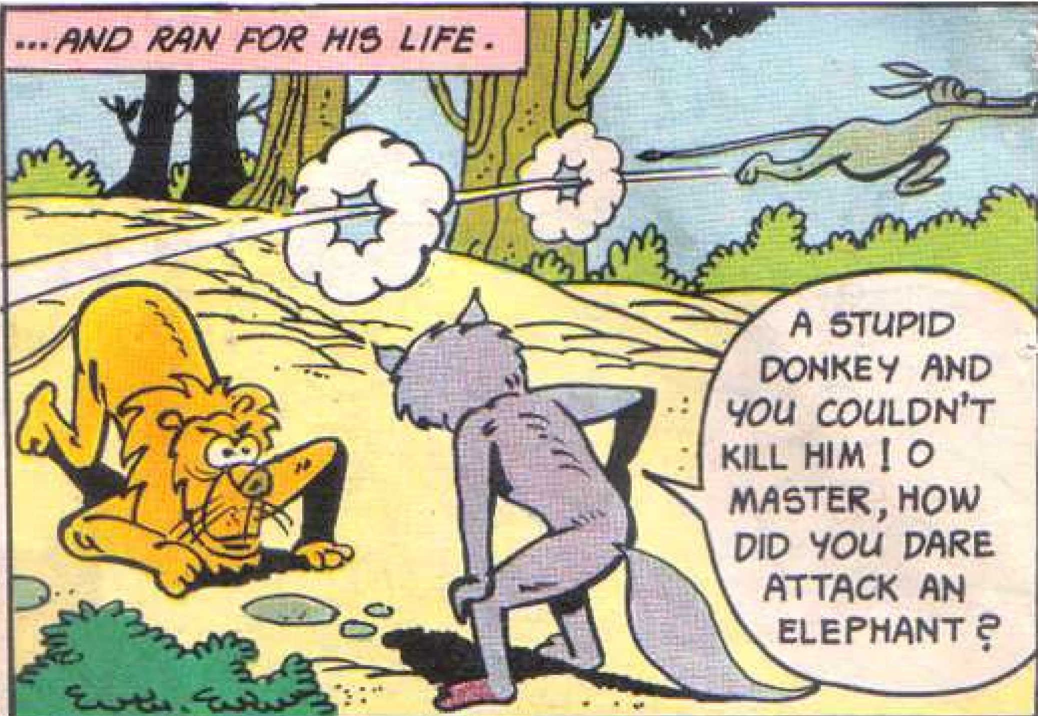

AND THE POOR DONKEY FOLLOWED THE JACKAL INTO THE JUNGLE.


FOOD AT LAST!


WHAT WAS THAT?

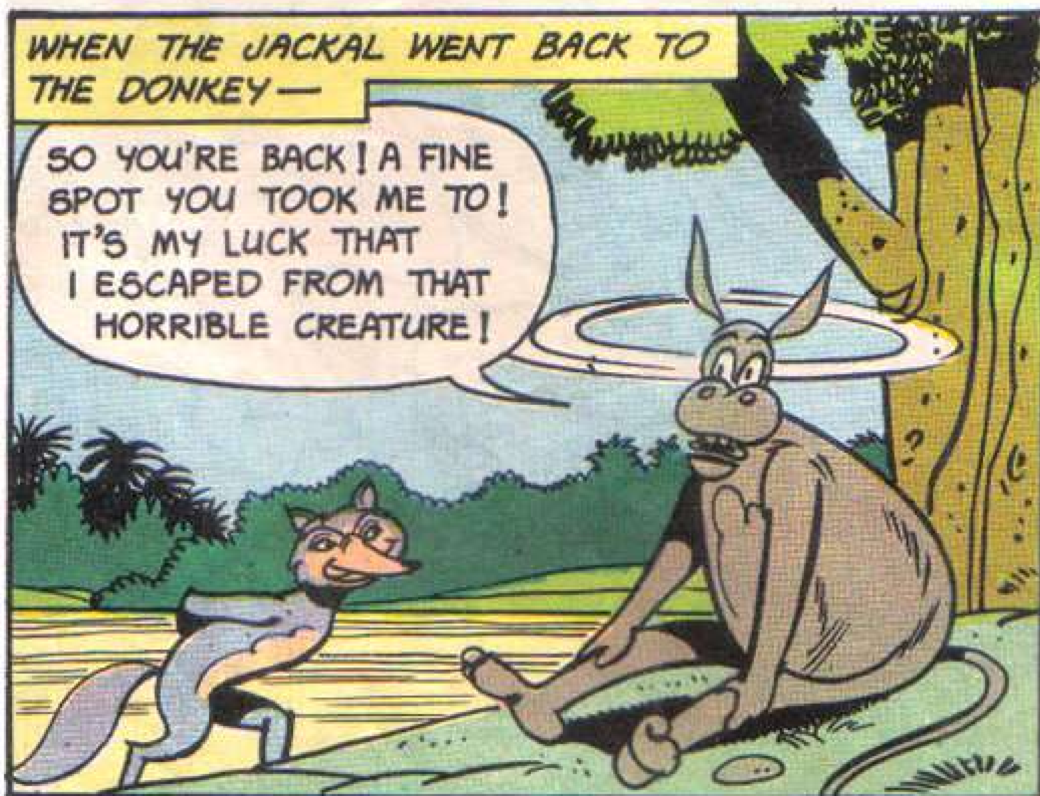

THE HASTY FOOL!


THE TERRIFIED DONKEY TOOK ONE LOOK AT THE LION...


...AND RAN FOR HIS LIFE.
A STUPID DONKEY AND YOU COULDN'T KILL HIM! O MASTER, HOW DID YOU DARE ATTACK AN ELEPHANT?


IT'S NOT MY FAULT. I WASN'T READY FOR HIM. I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO RETURN SO SOON.
THEN BE READY NOW. I'LL GO AND BRING HIM BACK.


BRING HIM BACK? IMPOSSIBLE! HE SAW ME AND RAN AWAY. YOU'LL HAVE TO BRING SOME OTHER ANIMAL.
I WILL BRING BACK THAT VERY DONKEY. BE READY FOR HIM THIS TIME.


WHEN THE JACKAL WENT BACK TO THE DONKEY—
SO YOU'RE BACK! A FINE SPOT YOU TOOK ME TO! IT'S MY LUCK THAT I ESCAPED FROM THAT HORRIBLE CREATURE!


THE JACKAL LAUGHED.
UNCLE, THAT WAS A LOVESICK SHE-DONKEY. WHEN SHE SAW YOU, SHE SPRANG FORWARD TO WELCOME YOU. BUT YOU WERE SHY AND RAN AWAY.


YOU MUST COME BACK AND MARRY HER. IF YOU DON'T, SHE SAYS SHE'LL STARVE HERSELF TO DEATH.


SHE CAN'T BEAR TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOU. SO HAVE MERCY ON HER AND RETURN. IF YOU DON'T, YOU WILL BE GUILTY OF KILLING A LADY AND KAMADEVA* WILL BE ANGRY WITH YOU.


BELIEVING ALL THAT THE JACKAL SAID, THE FOOLISH DONKEY WENT BACK WITH HIM TO THE JUNGLE.
WONDER OF WONDERS! HE HAS BROUGHT HIM BACK! THIS TIME I WON'T FAIL HIM.


WHEN THEY WERE NEAR ENOUGH—




DIDN'T I TELL YOU I WOULD SUCCEED IF I WERE READY? NOW GUARD THIS DONKEY WHILE I GO TO BATHE.

* GOD OF LOVE

I CANNOT WAIT TILL HE RETURNS. WHILE HE IS AWAY, I'LL EAT UP THE DONKEY'S HEART AND EARS.

WHEN THE LION RETURNED, HE BEGAN SNIFFING AT THE DONKEY. SUDDENLY, HE BEGAN TO ROAR.

YOU SCOUNDREL! YOU HAVE EATEN THE EARS AND HEART! AM I TO EAT YOUR LEAVINGS?

BUT THE JACKAL WAS NOT FRIGHTENED. CALMLY HE FACED THE LION.

O KING, THIS CREATURE WAS BORN WITHOUT EARS OR HEART. IF NOT, WOULD HE HAVE COME HERE, HEARD YOUR ROAR, RUN AWAY IN TERROR...

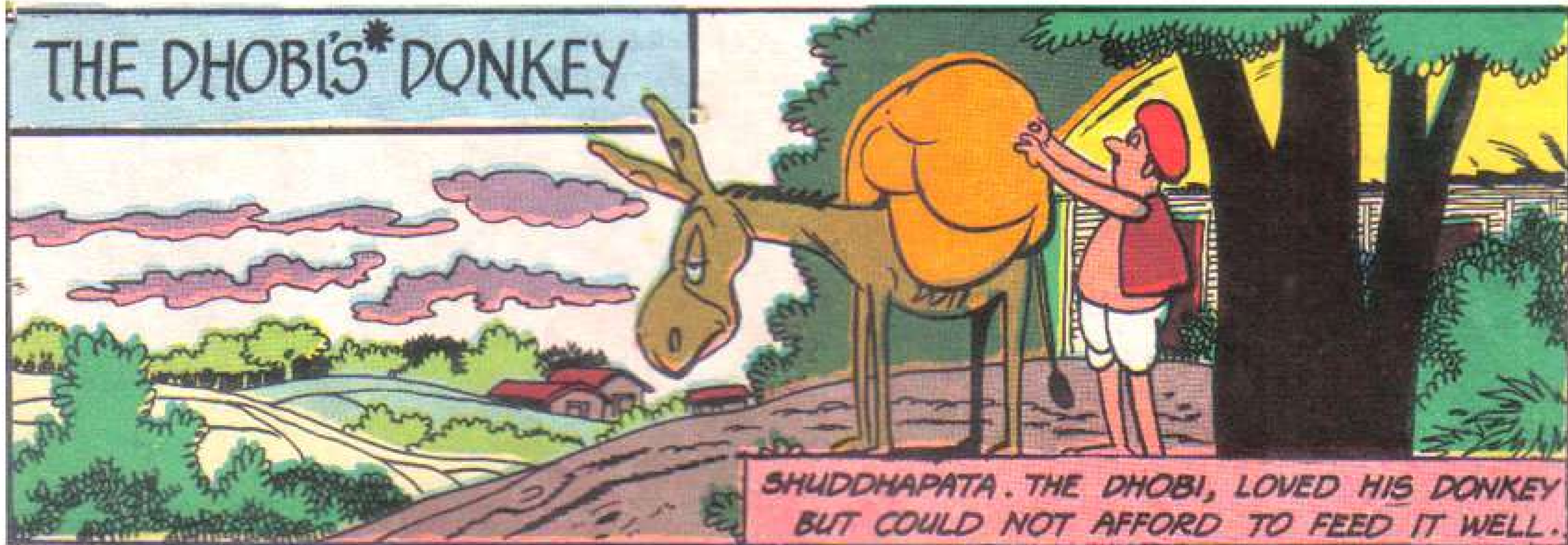
...AND THEN COME BACK AGAIN?

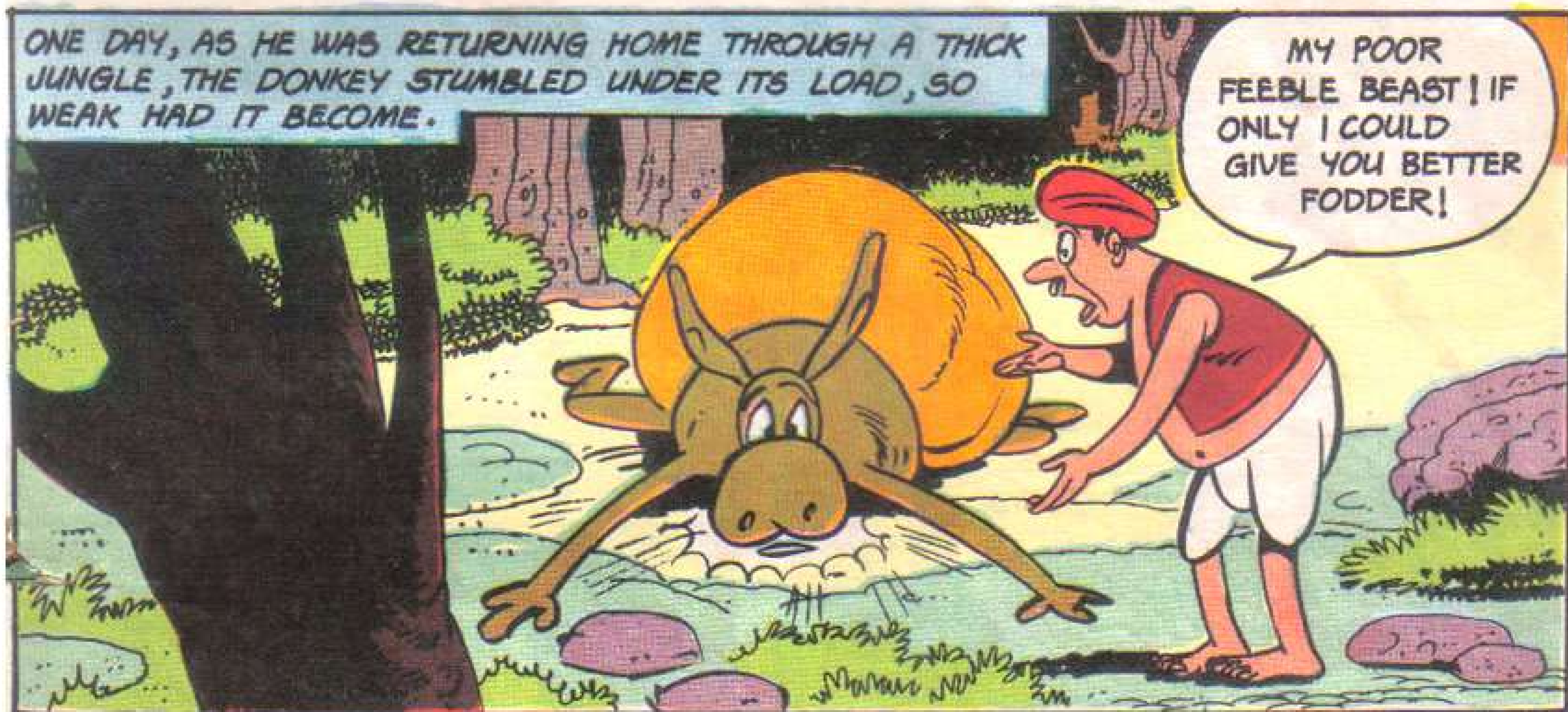
WHAT HE SAYS MUST BE TRUE. OR ELSE WHY SHOULD THE DONKEY HAVE COME BACK?

ALL RIGHT. I SHALL FIRST HAVE MY FILL OF THIS DONKEY. YOU MAY THEN EAT THE REST.

MORAL: DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD IN THE FACE OF CALAMITIES AND YOU'LL OVER-COME THEM.

THE DHOBI'S* DONKEY



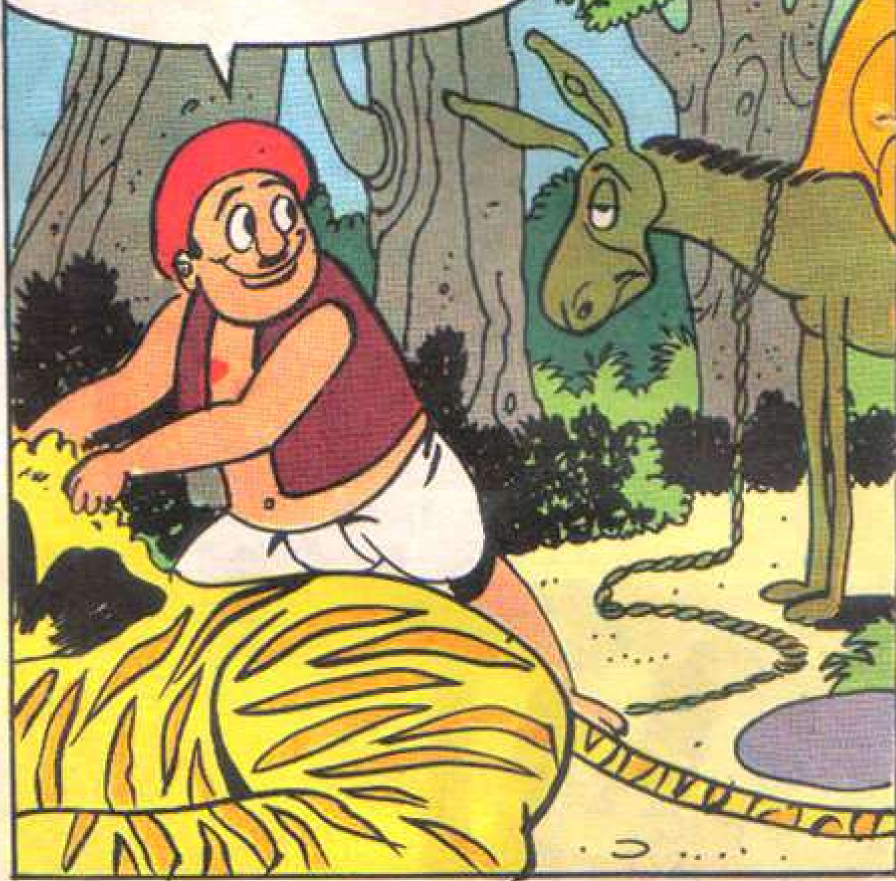






* WASHERMAN


HE WAS ABOUT TO WALK ON, BUT SUDDENLY STOPPED.
THAT'S IT! I'LL FLAY THIS FELLOW AND TAKE THE SKIN HOME. MY DONKEY WILL NO LONGER LACK FOOD.


YOU WILL SOON BECOME A FEARFUL TIGER, MY GENTLE DONKEY, AND EAT ALL THE MILLET YOU WANT.


THERE ! NOW, IN THIS GARB, GO INTO THE MILLET FIELDS AT NIGHT.


THAT NIGHT —
COME. IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO CHANGE.

THE DHOBI THEN LED HIM TO THE MILLET FIELDS.

GO, MY PET, AND EAT TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT. I'LL COME BACK FOR YOU IN THE MORNING.

AN HOUR LATER, WHEN THE FARMER AND HIS MEN CAME TO MAKE THEIR USUAL ROUNDS—

THERE'S AN ANIMAL IN THE MILLET FIELD!

IT'S A TIGER! RUN!

AND THE DONKEY MUNCHED AWAY UNDISTURBED.

IN THE MORNING, THE DHOBI LED HIM HOME. THIS WENT ON FOR MANY DAYS.

YOU'VE GROWN SO PLUMP, MY DONKEY. IF YOU GROW ANY PLUMPER, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ENTER YOUR STALL.

ONE NIGHT—

THERE HE IS AGAIN!

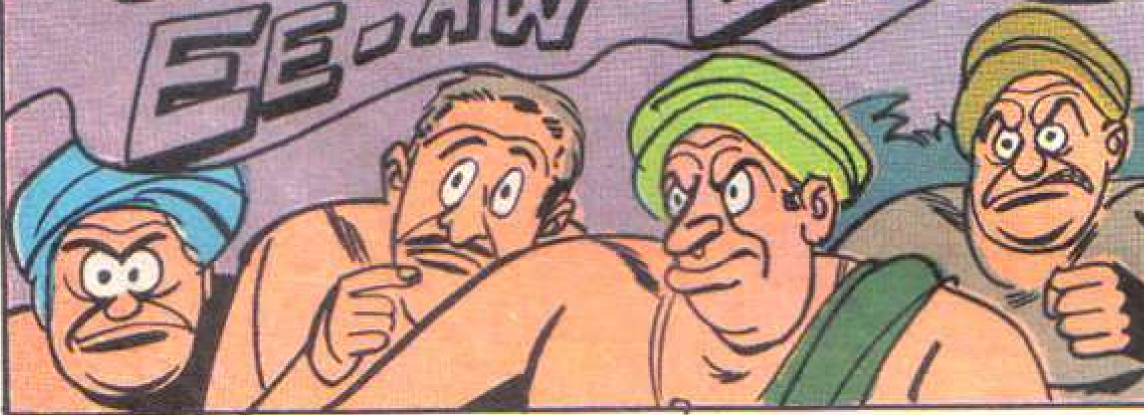
WHAT SHALL WE DO? WE'RE HELPLESS.

JUST THEN, THE DONKEY HEARD THE BRAY OF A SHE-DONKEY.

EE-AW







THE ANGRY FARMER AND HIS MEN CHARGED AT THE DONKEY AND BEAT HIM TO DEATH.



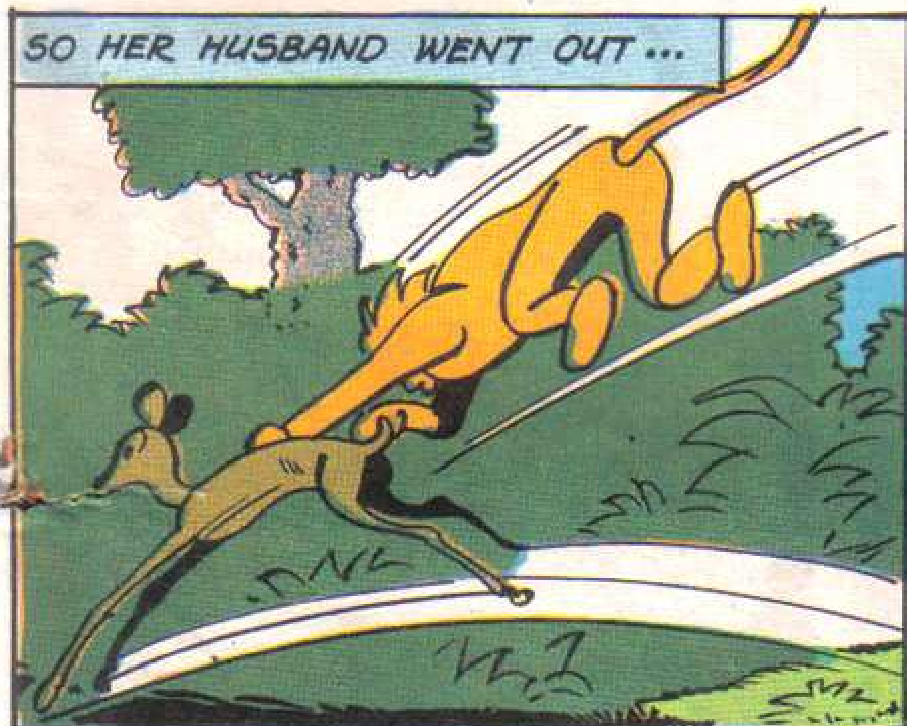
IN THE MORNING, THE DHOBI WAS SHOCKED TO SEE HIS DONKEY DEAD.



MORAL: SILENCE IS GOLDEN.

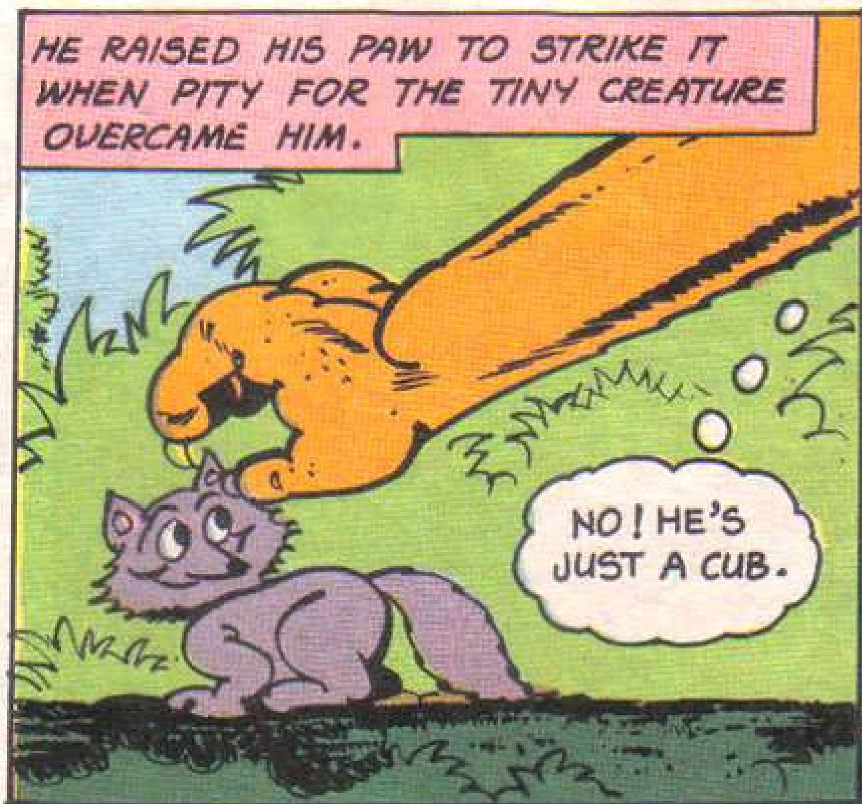
THE LIONESS AND THE JACKAL CUB



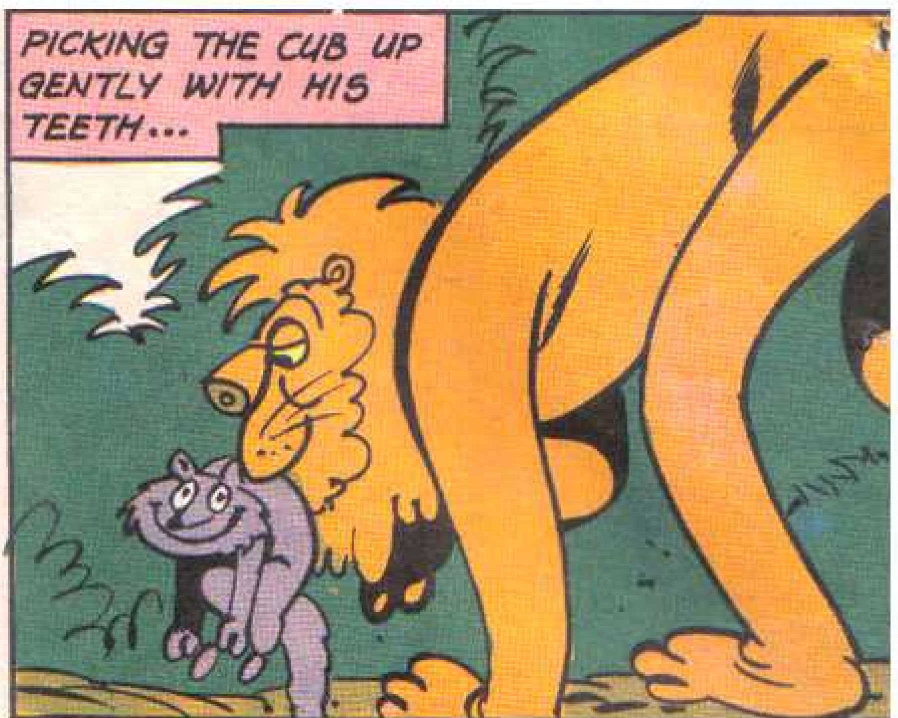


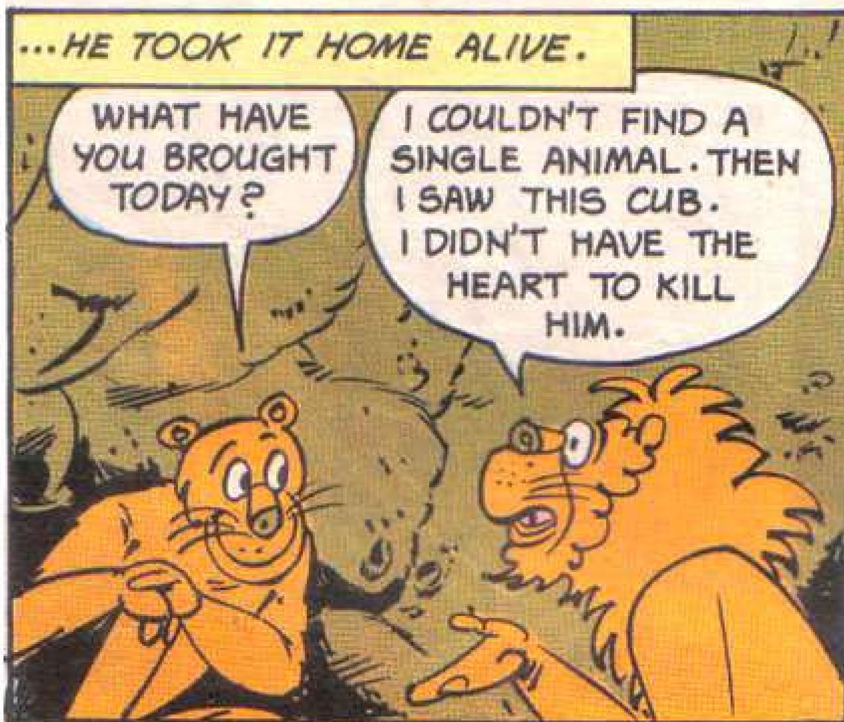


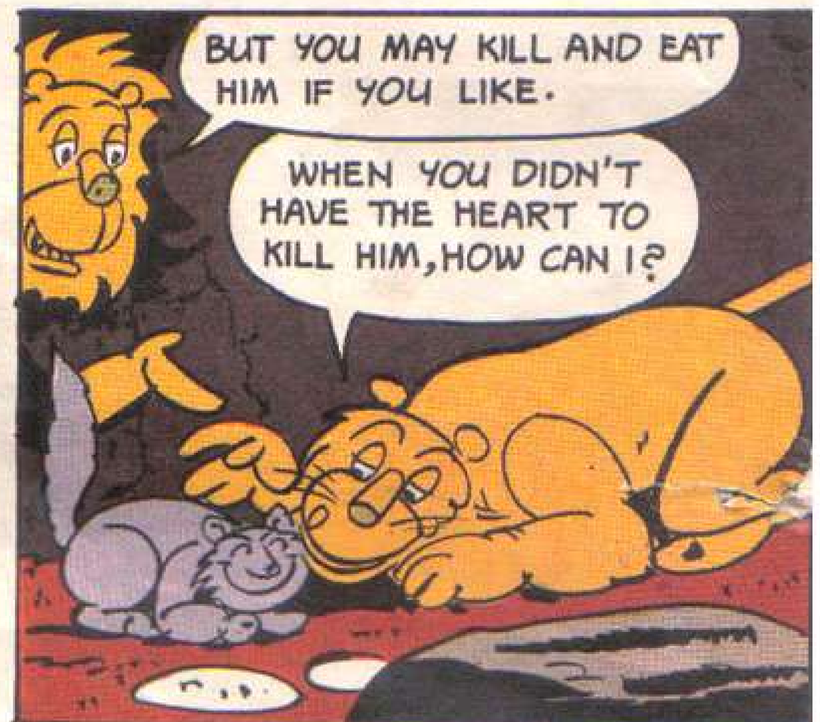





HOW CAN I KILL HIM?


PICKING THE CUB UP GENTLY WITH HIS TEETH...


...HE TOOK IT HOME ALIVE.
WHAT HAVE YOU BROUGHT TODAY?
I COULDN'T FIND A SINGLE ANIMAL. THEN I SAW THIS CUB. I DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART TO KILL HIM.


BUT YOU MAY KILL AND EAT HIM IF YOU LIKE.
WHEN YOU DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART TO KILL HIM, HOW CAN I?


HE SHALL GROW UP AS MY THIRD SON.


THE THREE CUBS SOON GREW PLUMP AND FRISKY.


ONE DAY —
WHO IS THAT INTRUDER? COME, BROTHERS, LET'S GO AND ATTACK HIM.


WAIT, BROTHERS. DON'T ! THAT'S AN ELEPHANT. AN ENEMY OF OUR RACE. LET'S RUN AWAY !

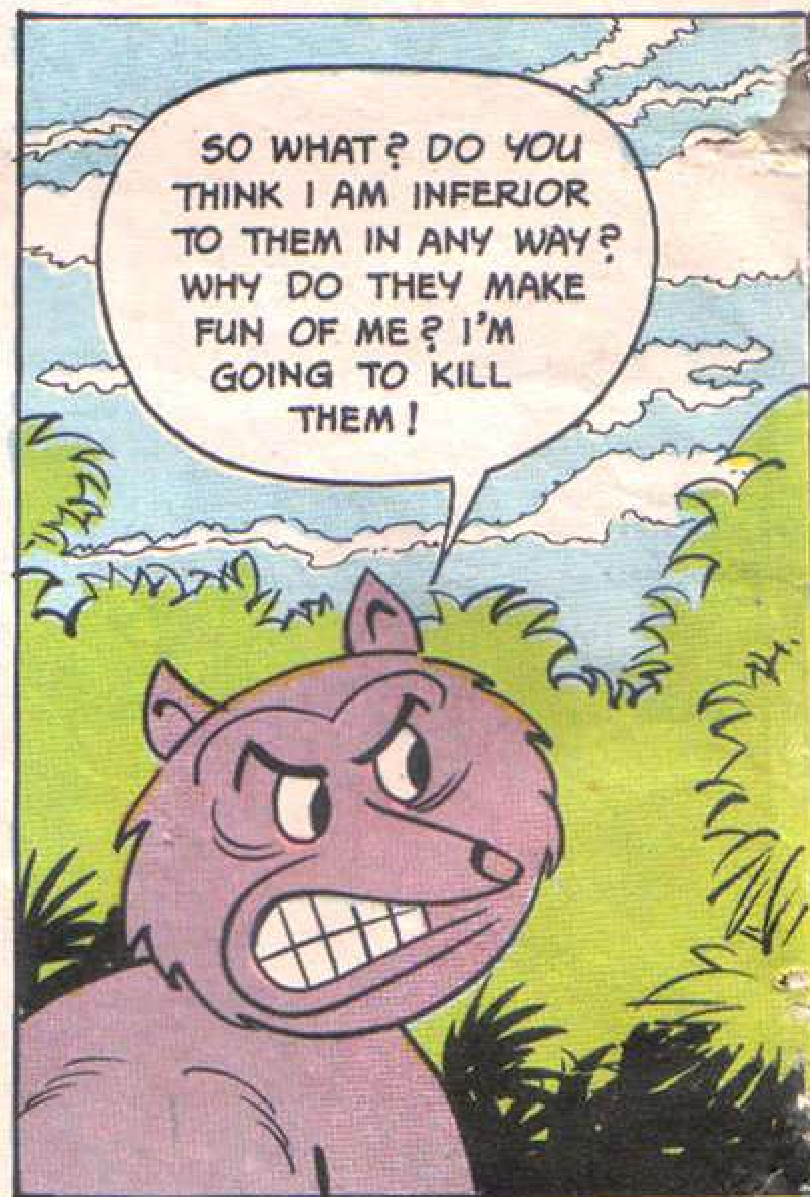

RUN AWAY ? HA ! HA !
WHAT'S SO FUNNY ? I'M GOING TO RUN AWAY. LET THEM FOLLOW IF THEY WANT TO.


LATER AT THE DEN —
...AND, MOTHER, IT WAS SO FUNNY ! HO ! HO ! THE WAY HE PUT HIS TAIL BETWEEN HIS LEGS. HA ! HA ! ...
HO ! HO ... AND RAN FOR HIS LIFE ... HA ! HA !

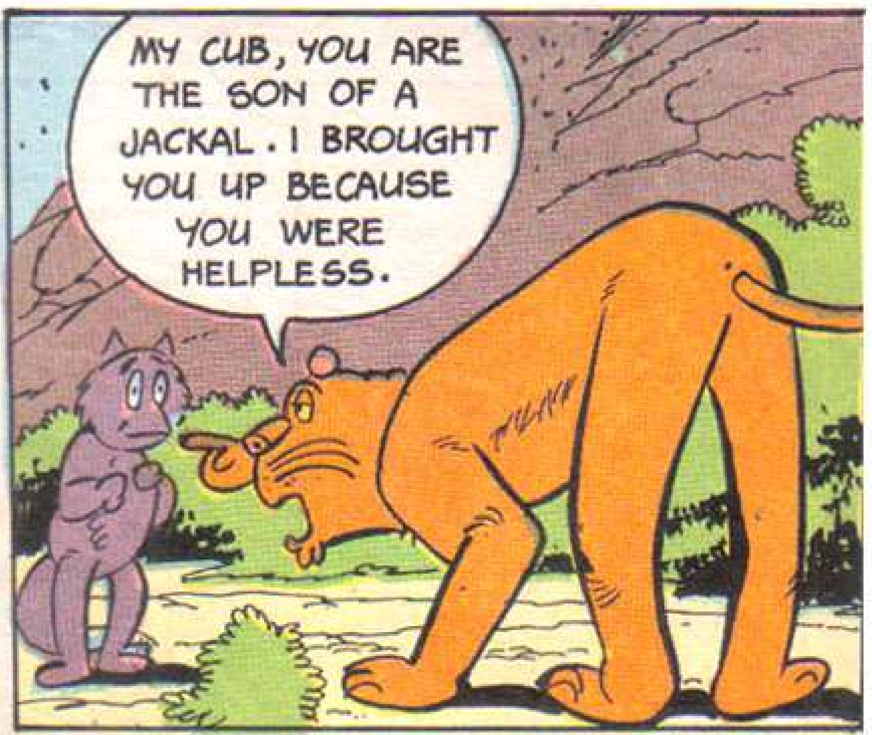

YOU ARE FOOLS. I SHOULD HAVE LET THAT ELEPHANT KILL YOU. I WISH I HADN'T WARNED YOU. I...

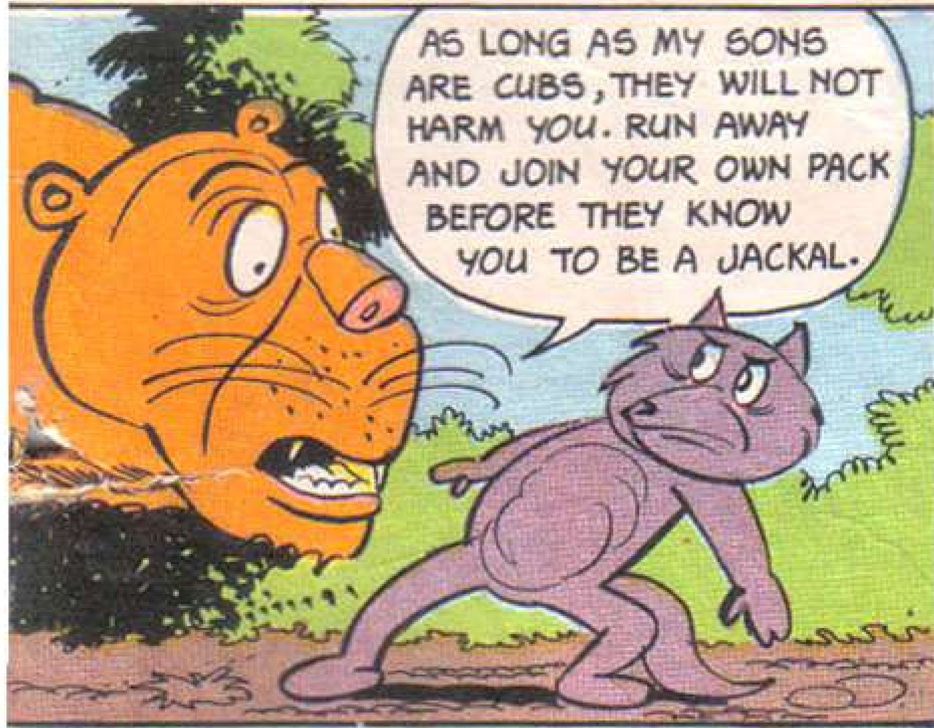

CALM DOWN, MY SON. LET US GO OUTSIDE. I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.


WHEN THEY WERE ALONE —
YOU MUST NEVER AGAIN SPEAK LIKE THAT TO THEM. THEY ARE YOUR OLDER BROTHERS.

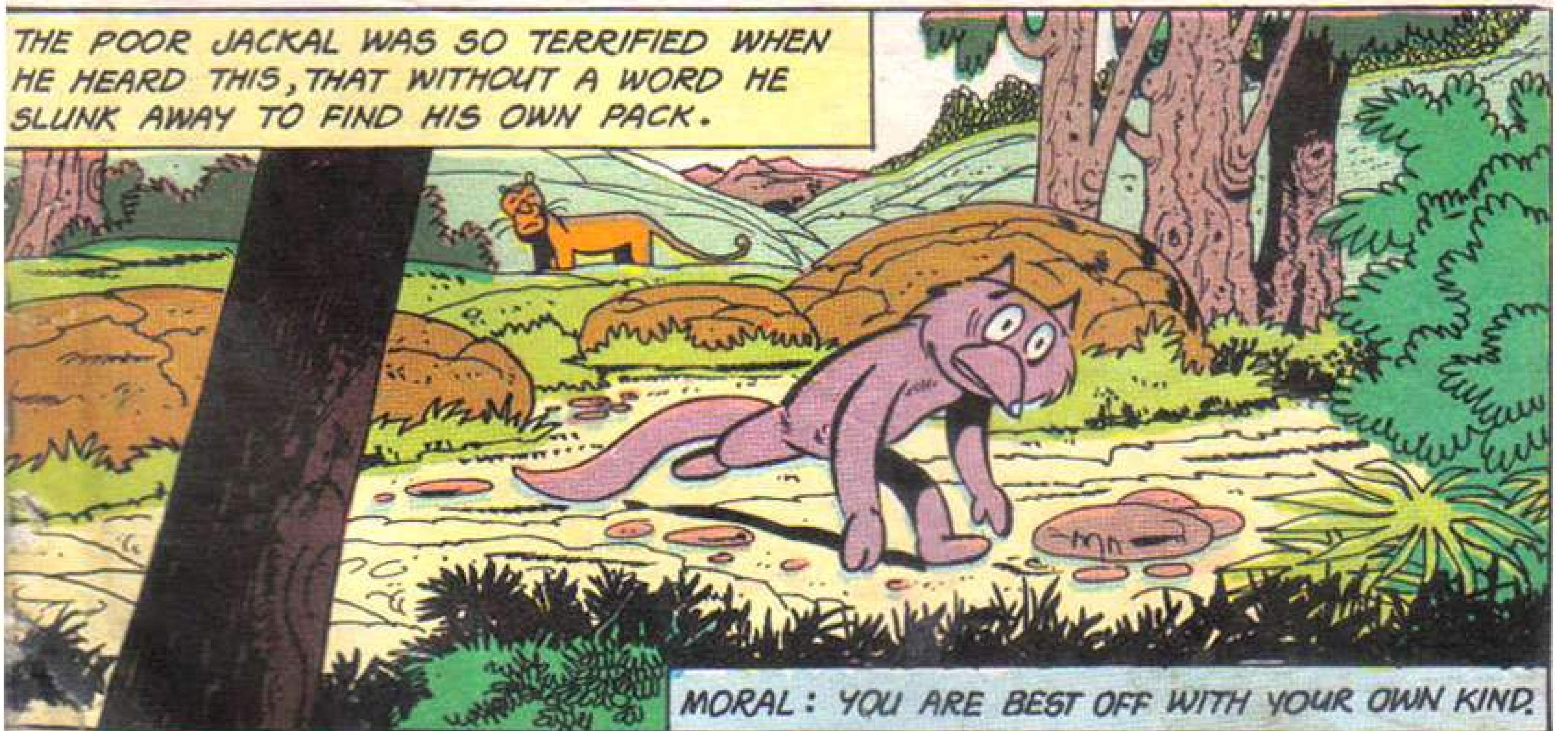

SO WHAT? DO YOU THINK I AM INFERIOR TO THEM IN ANY WAY? WHY DO THEY MAKE FUN OF ME? I'M GOING TO KILL THEM!


THE LIONESS HELD BACK THE SMILE THAT CAME TO HER LIPS.
POOR CUB. I WILL HAVE TO TELL HIM THE TRUTH— BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.


MY CUB, YOU ARE THE SON OF A JACKAL. I BROUGHT YOU UP BECAUSE YOU WERE HELPLESS.


AS LONG AS MY SONS ARE CUBS, THEY WILL NOT HARM YOU. RUN AWAY AND JOIN YOUR OWN PACK BEFORE THEY KNOW YOU TO BE A JACKAL.


IF YOU DON'T, MY SONS WILL SOONER OR LATER FIGHT YOU AND KILL YOU.


THE POOR JACKAL WAS SO TERRIFIED WHEN HE HEARD THIS, THAT WITHOUT A WORD HE SLUNK AWAY TO FIND HIS OWN PACK.
MORAL : YOU ARE BEST OFF WITH YOUR OWN KIND.

PARLE

Krackjack

the konversation opener

"This sweet biscuit is terrific."

"Yes–but it's salty!"

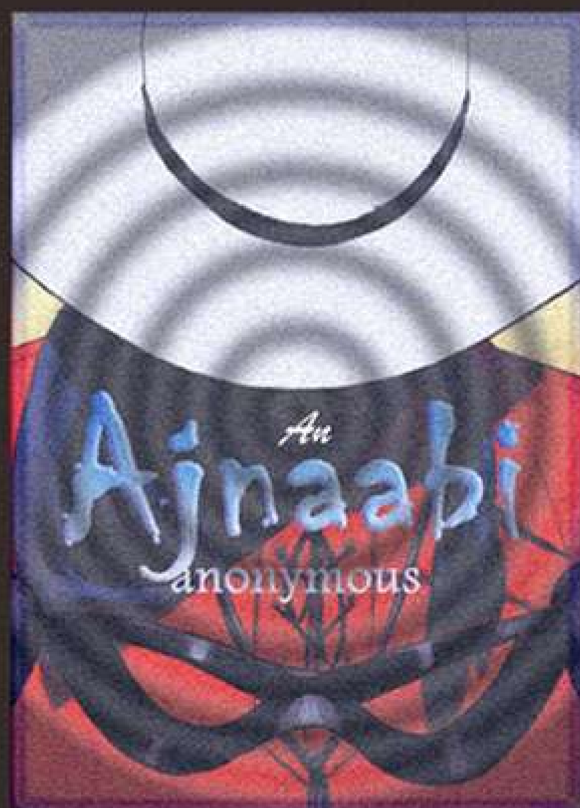
Some say it's sweet.
Others swear it's salty.
All agree it's tasty,
tasty, tasty.

World Selection
Award Winner



PARLE

Krackjack –the one and only sweet and salty biscuit sensation.



Preservation